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Egypt denounces Israeli policies

SANAA (R) — Egypt Wednesday denounced Israeli policies and called for the Jewish state to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories. Foreign Minister Elwan Abdel Magid told a meeting of "Islamic foreign ministers" here: "Muslim Egypt categorically rejects the principle of setting lands by force. The before we restore the need for Israel's unconditional and immediate withdrawal from Arab territories occupied after 1976, including the West Bank, the Golan Heights and the Syrian Golan Heights." Egypt also condemned Israel's "repressive measures" against Palestinians in occupied territories, he said. His speech came after Iran and hardline Arab states led by Syria sought to exclude Egypt's participation from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) ministerial meeting (See page 2).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Arafat urges Arabs to unite

DOHA (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat Wednesday urged Arab countries to unite to avoid exclusion from what he called a "new Yalta" of international detente. He did not explain his reference to the historic February 1945 meeting at Yalta on the Black Sea between the U.S., Soviet and British wartime leaders, Theodore Roosevelt, Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill. But, apparently anticipating warmer relations between the Moscow and the West, he told a rally of Palestinians and other Arabs here: "we are heading for international detente, so unless we unify our ranks we will be dropped from the new Yalta." Mr. Arafat said the United States, Israel and some Arab states, which he did not name, were conspiring to "cross out the Palestinian factor in the Middle East."

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Iraqi arrest Baghdad bombers

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday security police had arrested those responsible for an explosion that killed three people a week ago that killed three people. A statement from the general directorate of security did not say how many had been arrested, but said: "They have confessed their crime and that they received explosives from the Iranian regime through its ally, the Syrian regime." The statement said two children and a schoolgirl were killed and several other schoolgirls wounded in the blast, in Sadr City in the centre of the capital.

PFLP-CC denies reports on captives

DAMASCUS (AP) — A Libyan-backed Palestinian commando group said Wednesday the international Red Cross was probing the chances of an exchange of war prisoners with Israel but denied a swap was imminent. Omar Shehadi, political bureau member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, described Lebanese newspaper reports on an imminent swap as "not correct nor precise."

U.S. embassy attack foiled in Tel Aviv, CBS Television says

NEW YORK (R) — Israeli security forces foiled a possible attack on the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv three weeks ago when they arrested six Arabs carrying grenades, CBS Television News reported Tuesday. It quoted an unnamed high level U.S. official as saying the embassy was just one of the targets the Arabs had in mind. The others were Israeli government offices. The Arabs were apparently frustrated Palestinian Arabs who "wanted to do something, rather, demonstrative," CBS quoted the official as saying.

Frenchman sentenced to death in Vietnam, Paris says

PARIS (R) — One of five people sentenced to death in Ho Chi Minh City for plotting against the Vietnamese government is French, the External Relations Ministry said Wednesday. The man was named as Mai Van Hanh. The ministry said France's ambassador to Vietnam, Yvan Bastoul, and the consul general to Ho Chi Minh City, Jean-Francois Parrot, were negotiating with the Vietnamese authorities to allow Mr. Van Hanh to receive visitors.

3 soldiers killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — Tamil separatist guerrillas killed two army officers and a soldier in a landmine ambush Wednesday, and two guerrillas died in the shootout that ensued, the army reported. A military spokesman said 15 soldiers also were wounded, six of them seriously, when a landmine blew up two trucks in the eastern district of Trincomalee.

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Sultan Muda, Princess Mariam begin three-day state visit King urges Brunei to use its good relations with Iran to end Gulf war

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday urged Sultan Muda Hassanah Bolkhiah of Brunei to use his country's good relations with Iran to end the four-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

The King's call came in a speech he delivered at a dinner he and Her Majesty Queen Noor hosted in honour of the visiting Brunei leader and his wife, Her Highness Hajia Mariam, who arrived in Amman earlier Wednesday on a three-day state visit.

"We are confident that you will use your influence and good offices with the Islamic Republic of Iran to bring a compliance with divine law and with the desire of Muslims to see an end to this continuous war, now more than four years long," King Hussein said.

Sultan Muda and Princess Mariam and an official delegation accompanying them were accorded a grand welcome ceremony upon their arrival at the airport. The Jordanian army band played the national anthems of both the countries prior to a reception by the Brunei leader, accompanied by King Hussein, on a guard of honour mounted to mark the occasion of his visit to Jordan.

Present at the welcoming ceremony were His Highness Prince Mohammad, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed bin Zaid, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat and cabinet members and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid bin Shaker.

Beirut seeks to salvage army plan amid violence

BEIRUT (AP) — Artillery and rocket exchanges among rival militiamen and the Lebanese army broke out again in the central mountains Wednesday as efforts continued to salvage a plan to reopen the coastal highway to the Israeli-occupied south.

Police said one Lebanese army soldier was killed and two others were wounded by rocket-propelled grenades and sniper fire between government troops at the mountain top town of Souq Al Gharb and militiamen in nearby villages in the hills overlooking Beirut.

Police said a few shells hit residential neighbourhoods in east Beirut during the morning but no casualties were reported.

Militias clashed in the Kharroub region bordering Israel's occupation zone in southern Lebanon. The state radio said the Israeli army sent a patrol of two tanks and 12 armoured personnel carriers into the area as the exchanges erupted. The patrol took positions in the villages of Ghazir and Harout, the radio said, but without apparent effect on the battles.

Fighting has escalated in recent days in the Souq Al Gharb area and the Kharroub hills that overlook the southern coastal highway since Prime Minister Rashid Karami's cabinet announced the first plan for reopening the highway last month.

The Lebanese cabinet held its regular weekly session at President Amin Gemayel's presidential palace.

Mr. Karami, Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun and Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Mahmoud Tayyib Dirham reported to the cabinet on a revised version of the plan.

He and other Labour Party heads met two small religious factions, the National Religious Party and Agudat Israel, to see if they could be counted on for support after an unsuccessful attempt Tuesday night to stage off a crisis with Likud's leader, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The delicate balance of the country's three-month-old unity government was upset this week when another religious party, Shas, quit over a dispute involving control of state funds for religious functions.

Moscow sets no preconditions for arms talks, Gorbachev says

LONDON (R) — Soviet politburo member Mikhail Gorbachev said Wednesday Moscow was not setting preconditions for new arms talks with the United States by calling for early moves to ban space weapons.

But he underlined Moscow's concern about the issue at a meeting with British Labour Party leaders.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock told reporters he asked Mr. Gorbachev, 53, if Moscow regarded progress towards a ban on space weapons as a precondition for resuming talks on limiting nuclear arms.

West has hazy idea of Soviet stand, page 4.

The Jordanian side at the talks was headed by Prince Mohammad, who deputised for the King, Mr. Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and General Sharif Zaid.

The King and Sultan Muda held a closed meeting to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations, according to a Royal Court spokesman.

Later, at the banquet, the King welcomed the Sultan and expressed deep appreciation that Jordan was one of the first three countries the Sultan chose to include in his first visit to the region.

The state of Nagara Brunei Darussalam gained its independence from British colonisation in late 1983 and became a member of the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Common Wealth.

The King congratulated Brunei for gaining independence. "Like our Arab and Muslim brothers, we feel greatly heartened and strengthened to see you assume control of your own affairs," he said.

The King praised the "distinguished contribution to the first Islamic summit meeting in which you (Brunei) participated — the fourth OIC summit held in early 1984 in our sister country of Morocco."

In reply to the King's speech, the Sultan gave a short speech expressing thanks and appreciation for the warm reception accorded to him and for the role played by Jordan to support Brunei's admittance to the OIC earlier this year.

Both leaders reiterated total support for the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and to self-determination.

The King said that by gaining its independence Brunei has taken its place as an Islamic country in the struggle for achieving a just solution to the Palestinian people.

"You thus take your place on the side of right and justice, share in the sincere efforts to remove the yoke of oppression which has befallen a brotherly people and join with Muslim brethren in seeking a just and honourable peace," he said.

The King explained that the Palestinian question as well as the destiny of the Palestinian people has always been Jordan's foremost concern "in our capacity both as twin brothers of the people of Palestine and as defenders along the longest line of confrontation with Israel."

"In our stand against the usurpers of our rights, we have always depended and continue to depend on the support of our brethren in the Arab and Muslim World," he said.

The Sultan responded that despite the long geographic distance that separates Jordan and Brunei, "I am fully aware of the happenings in the Middle East."

"We also know and appreciate your endeavours to solve the current problems in the area and particularly the Palestinian question," he said.

He said that the Palestinian question is the core of the conflict in the Middle East and all efforts should be forged to resolve it.

"I have repeatedly raised the Palestinian question," he said.

Jordan has much headway in providing a healthy environment for its children, the King said. He

also praised the endorsement by the Arab World of the Charter of the Rights of the Arab Child in 1983, "which our government has translated into action."

Following is the full text of the King's statement:

It is with great pleasure and pride that I issue this statement on the occasion of the launching by UNICEF of its 1985 report on the state of the world's children.

This report, in parallel with this international organisation, deals with the child as the essence and continuity of life and represents the shining face of the bright future which all humanity seeks to achieve.

We observe with full satisfaction the intensified efforts the

international community is making in order to provide the best possible care for all children to enable them to develop their full potential to contribute to the progress of the community, the nation and the world.

The experiences gained by a number of countries and institutions in the field of child care and in developing the child's skills and abilities have demonstrated that when applied with determination, the possibility exists that the world's children can avoid

(Continued on page 4)

Prince Talal quits as special UNICEF envoy, page 2

Parents can halve children death rate, page 5

Israel may quit Naqoura negotiations, officials say

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel may soon pull out of negotiations on withdrawing Israeli forces from Lebanon, officials said Wednesday.

Briefing reporters after a special cabinet session, Israeli officials said U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, who toured the Middle East this month, had failed to achieve a breakthrough in the stalled talks with the Beirut government. The talks are deadlocked over the central issue of who should police the south of the country after Israel's estimated 12,000 troops withdraw.

Negotiations are due to reconvene in the border village of Naqoura Thursday and are then scheduled to go into a Christmas recess.

"There is a possibility that we won't return to the talks after tomorrow," one senior official told reporters.

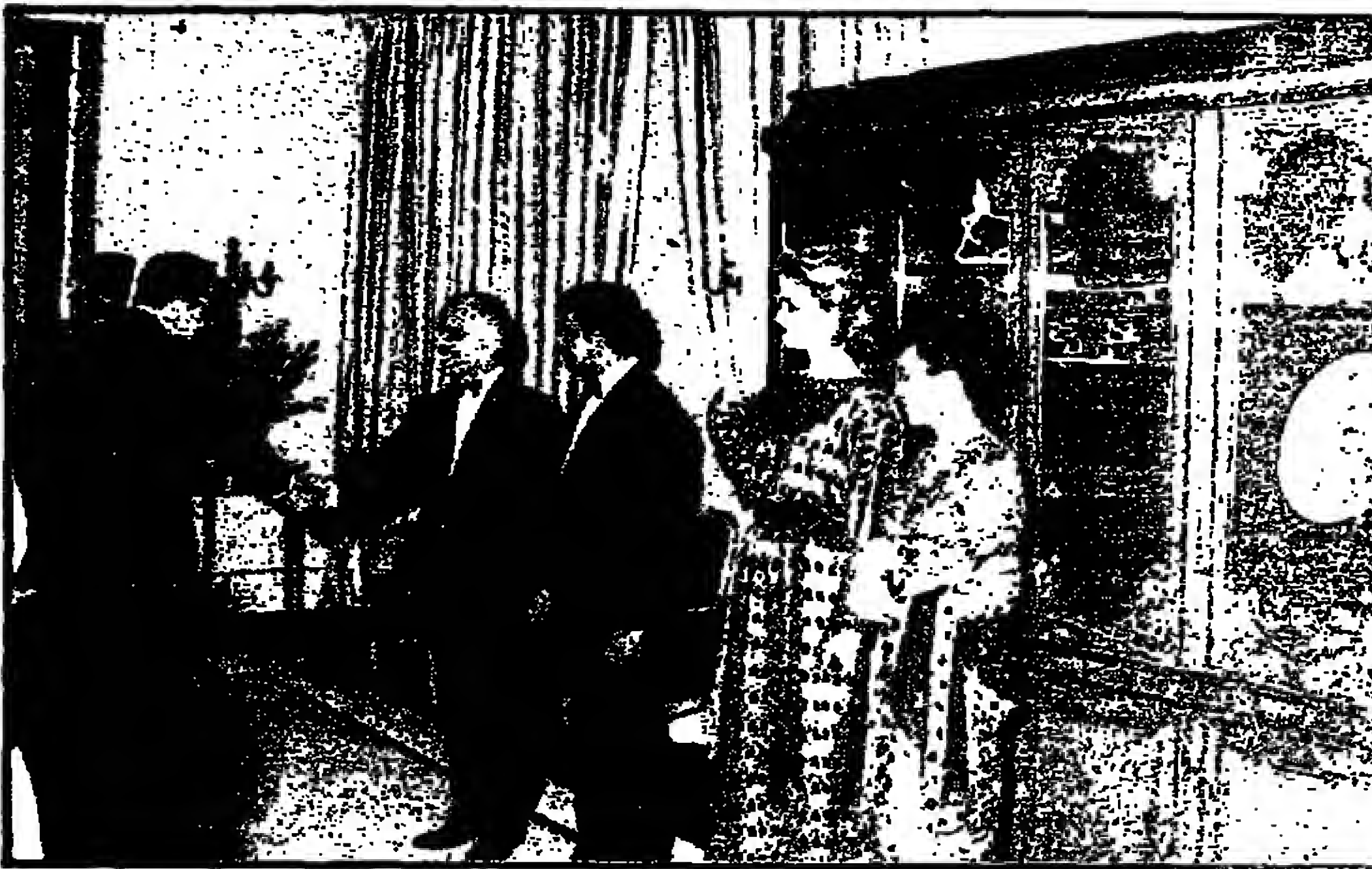
In the past few days, Prime Minister Shimon Peres has said he may order an unilateral withdrawal to the border if the Naqoura talks do not make rapid progress.

On Tuesday, he told parents of soldiers serving in Lebanon he would keep his election pledge to reach a quick decision when to bring home the army.

The multi-party government, which took office in mid-September, has said it will reassess its options after the Naqoura talks recess.

Mr. Peres Wednesday summoned the so-called inner cabinet, which reviews all decisions on Lebanon. He and army generals have said it will take six to nine months to complete the withdrawal once the order is given.

Israelis killed Lebanese women in cold blood, witnesses say, page 2



His Majesty King Hussein and Sultan Muda Hassanah Bolkhiah of Brunei receive Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat as Her Majesty Queen Noor and Princess Hajia Mariam of Brunei look on at a dinner the King and Queen hosted in honour of the Brunei leader who began a three-day visit to Jordan Wednesday (Petra photo)

Hussein calls on world community to support UNICEF programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday called on the international community to support efforts made by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the welfare of the world's children.

In a statement issued to mark the occasion of the issuance of a report by UNICEF on the state of the world's children, the King said there is a need for a continuous and joint effort to reach the "ideal solution when every child, without regard to nationality or race, is given every opportunity to enjoy his childhood and develop his capabilities and skills in a healthy and sound environment."

Jordan has much headway in providing a healthy environment for its children, the King said. He

U.S. embassy denies Murphy met Palestinian official during Amman visit

AMMAN (AP) — A U.S. embassy official here denied on Wednesday a Kuwaiti newspaper report that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard W. Murphy met with a Palestinian personality during his recent visit to Amman.

The official, who spoke on condition he not be named, said the only people Mr. Murphy met were King Hussein, five other Jordanian government officials and six U.S. embassy diplomats.

Mr. Murphy was in Amman Sunday and Monday in the course of his current Middle East tour that took him also to Saudi Arabia, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt to discuss an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon and the possibility of an overall Arab-Israeli settlement.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas said in a dispatch from Amman on Tuesday that Mr. Murphy had met with a Palestinian personality whom the paper described as close to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The report said the unnamed Palestinian conveyed to Mr. Murphy the PLO policy on peace efforts and "the PLO's keenness to have a dialogue with the United States."

The U.S. government insists it will not talk to the PLO unless it recognises Israel. Al Qabas claimed Mr. Murphy had suggested to the Palestinian that the PLO recognise Israel as a precondition for U.S. recognition of the PLO.

Commenting on the holding of the PNC in Amman last month, Dr. Munz said the event drew a large interest in the world and

Referendum turnout pleases Zia, opposition

ISLAMABAD (R) — Voting in Pakistan's referendum on Islamisation Wednesday appeared generally low but both President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and his critics boycotting the poll claimed they were pleased.

Confusion reigned at many urban polling stations as some people voted twice, some voted without being registered and others were unable to vote because their names could not be found on electoral rolls, witnesses said.

Voting in villages appeared to be more organised as local officials bussed in peasants to ensure a good turnout in the first national poll since General Zia seized power in 1977.

The government dropped the requirement for strict identity checks on Monday, saying many people did not have the necessary identity card. The banned political opposition claimed this would lead to widespread vote-rigging.

Gen. Zia, who will receive an extra five-year term if voters support his efforts to enforce Islamic laws, said he was "entirely satisfied" with the turnout.

When pressed for an estimate, he declined but told journalists 20 to 50 per cent of the electorate usually voted in referendums.

Opposition leaders, who appealed for a boycott of what they called a fraud to extend Gen. Zia's rule, claimed that not more than five to 10 per cent of the 34-million electorate had voted.

"The people have effectively boycotted the referendum so Zia has no option left but to step down," said Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, a leader of the opposition Movement.



Dr. Hermann Munz

indicating its significance and underlining the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) future policy in co-ordination with Jordan.

Dr. Munz said that disunity in the Arab World "is something we deplore" and that Jordan's restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt after a six-year break was "a highly welcomed step by Germany."

"Both countries can do something positive together," he added.

Jordan was the first Arab country to establish diplomatic relations with West Germany in 1964 — a move highly appreciated by West Germany. Mr. Munz said.

He said that being directly involved with the Palestinians, the Kingdom plays an important role in the region. "Palestinians in Jordan enjoy their rights more and

(Continued on page 5)

Relief workers warn of disaster in eastern Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — A mass migration from a drought-ravaged Ethiopian province is overwhelming Sudan's ability to cope with refugees, and both Sudanese and foreign relief workers warn of large scale death from famine and disease unless aid is rushed there quickly.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that since Nov. 1, at least 60,000 people, and probably more, have fled Ethiopia's Tigray province for eastern Sudan under an evacuation organized and directed by the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF), a rebel group battling the Marxist Ethiopian government.

Sudanese and U.N. officials estimate between 3,000 and 4,000 people — mostly women, children and older men — streamed into three camps near Kassala during the first week alone. The camp is about 50 kilometres west of the

Ethiopian border. The refugees joined thousands of other Ethiopians, mostly Eritreans, who have fled here over the past decade to escape civil war in their home province.

Abdul Magid Besbir Al Ahmed, Sudan's commissioner for refugees, warns that if the wave continues, the Sudanese will be caring for more than 250,000 Ethiopian refugees by Jan. 1 and nearly 400,000 by April.

The refugees — weak, diseased and emaciated after walking up to 500 kilometres at night over stony mountains and parched river beds — often arrive with nothing but

the thin, ragged clothes on their backs.

Relief workers tell of vast armies of the sick and dying standing for hours on the stark, windswept plain before the Tokalbad Camp near Kassala, while a medical staff of one doctor and a nurse from the private French charity, Medicin Sans Frontiers, try to identify those most critically in need of help.

At night, when temperatures around Kassala plunge to near freezing, refugees huddle together for warmth and protection from the howling winds.

"There are no tents," Mr. Ahmed said. "They are all under the sun day sky."

UNHCR estimates that in recent weeks between 20 and 30 refugees have been dying each day around Kassala. Most of the dead are children stricken with malnutrition, measles, tuberculosis and dehydration, U.N. officials say.

Israelis killed women in cold blood during S. Lebanese attack

TOURA, Lebanon (R) — Israeli troops killed a 14-year-old girl at close range and shot a 27-year-old woman in the head during a dawn attack on this South Lebanese village last week, relatives of the two victims told Reuters.

At least four people were shot dead when Israeli troops searched Shiite villages for resistance commandos suspects last Thursday, and two more died of their wounds Tuesday, medical sources in the nearby port city of Tyre and other hospital sources in the region said. Israel has said two people were killed.

In Toura, 55-year-old Saeed Shour said his 27-year-old unmarried daughter Najat was shot in the head and killed. "They left her bleeding and stopped me from helping her. And so she died in front of my eyes," he said.

Ombassan Shour, a Toura resident and relative of Saeed Shour, said an Israeli soldier shot her 14-year-old granddaughter Monah in the mouth and chest from a range of about three metres when she refused to stop shouting.

In Toura and Maarakah, young girls formed groups in front of the soldiers to chant "Allah O

Akbar" (God is Great), villagers said.

They said there was pandemonium at around 3 a.m. when they were woken by mosque loudspeakers blaring out warnings that the Israelis were coming.

Villagers and resistance sources said hundreds of people came out of their homes in pyjamas in pouring rain and began throwing stones, sticks and bottles at the troops.

Saeed Shour said: "I lost one daughter, but even if I lost 12 daughters I would still keep protecting our village." He added: "I am not afraid. Our weapon is belief in God."

Medical sources said the bodies of Najat and Monah Shour and those of another woman and a man were taken to Tyre's Jabel Amel hospital that morning. They all came from villages entered by the Israelis and were killed by bullets designed to fragment on impact, they said.

The seven villages entered by the troops have a reputation for fierce resistance to the Israelis. Mohammad Messa Kana, a young man in Toura, displayed a bandaged lower left leg, saying he was beaten with rifle butts.

Kyprianou in Greece for talks

ATHENS (R) — Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou, who is due next month to meet Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash for the first time in five years, arrived Wednesday for talks with the Greek government.

Mr. Kyprianou will confer with Greek President Constantine Karamanlis and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu together Thursday and then see Mr. Papandreu and his aides separately, Cypriot officials said.

Mr. Kyprianou and Mr. Denktash are to meet in New York on Jan. 17 for the first direct talks in five years which both have said aim to find a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded and occupied the northern 37 per cent of the island after a short-lived coup.

Three key policy advisers left with Mr. Kyprianou — Foreign Minister George Iacovou, Foreign Ministry Director Andreas Pavromatis and Cabinet Spokesman Andreas Christofides.

Mr. Kyprianou will hold a news conference in Nicosia on Saturday, officials said.

Meanwhile two ministers of the self-proclaimed "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" have resigned because of splits in the cabinet, officials said Wednesday.

Prince Talal resigns as UNICEF special envoy

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia's Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz said Wednesday he was resigning his post as special envoy to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a position he has held for five years.

Making the announcement to a press conference here, he said he had not informed the U.N. body in advance of his resignation, but had advised King Fahd about it.

Prince Talal, 53, cited duplication of his work with UNICEF and that as president of the Arab Gulf Programme for U.N. Development Organisations (AGFUND), a Riyadh-based organisation funded by the seven Gulf states.

The prince, who is a brother of the Saudi monarch, said he planned to continue his efforts to alleviate the problems of children throughout the world with AGFUND.

"After five years of mission with UNICEF, I found out that there was duplication in my work... I decided to concentrate the work through AGFUND," he said.

AGFUND, a multi-million dollar fund, was formed by Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab

Emirates in 1981 to channel contributions from these countries to the United Nations.

Describing the plight of children in the Arab World as "very bad", Prince Talal said AGFUND was proposing the establishment of a council in Arab countries to look after the interests of mothers and children there.

He said King Fahd was now considering recommendations on such a council in Saudi Arabia.

Prince Talal said that despite rapid economic progress, the kingdom was still a developing country so far as the situation of its children was concerned.

He said most projects there would concentrate on improving social structure, adding that the private sector had a major role to play.

U.N. figures for 1982 showed that 100 children out of every 1,000 born alive in Saudi Arabia died before their first birthday. This compared with 180 per 1,000 in 1960, the statistics said.

Earlier Wednesday, Prince Talal said in a statement that sophisticated technology was not the way to cut down infant mortality. He said the focus of child health care should shift from health institutions to the family.

Libya accuses France of violating Chad deal

ROME (AP) — Libya's no. 2 official on Tuesday accused France of violating the accord calling for the joint withdrawal of their troops from the African nation of Chad.

Maj. Abdul Salam Jalloud, during a news conference, also acknowledged that his country's economy has been hurt by a drop in oil demand and praised Italian Premier Bettino Craxi's recent meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Maj. Jalloud's comments came as part of a bitter series of accusations between Libya and France over the Chad issue. Maj. Jalloud is the radical Arab nation's second in command following Col. Muammar Qadhafi.

"France has violated the accord," Maj. Jalloud told reporters Tuesday evening.

According to him, France has violated the accord by continuing to fly reconnaissance missions over northern Chad and by stationing troops outside the country that could be sent back into Chad

"within hours."

French President Francois Mitterrand on Sunday said that Libyan troops remained in northern Chad despite the French-Libyan accord.

French troops intervened in Chad in August 1983 to halt an advance on its capital by rebels under Mr. Goukouni Oueddei and about 5,000 Libyan troops.

In September, Paris and Tripoli signed an agreement for the simultaneous removal of the Libyan force and 3,500 French. The Libyans failed to fulfill their end of the deal.

Maj. Jalloud also praised Mr. Craxi's previously announced meeting with Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat while in Tunis earlier this month.

"We think that the meeting with Mr. Arafat was a step in the right direction and we think that it's a courageous step on the part of Italy's democratic forces," Maj. Jalloud told reporters.

Qadhafi arrives in Spain

PALMA, Majorca (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi Wednesday arrived in Spain on a private visit to meet former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, a government spokesman said.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, office said Qol. Qadhafi, accompanied by a group of 25, landed at the military airport at Palma, capital of the Spanish Mediterranean island, at around 11.30 GMT.

He said Col. Qadhafi was meeting Mr. Kreisky for lunch at the country house of the chairman of a local bank in nearby Santa Ponsa. Mr. Kreisky arrived in Palma Tuesday.

The spokesman declined to reveal the nature of the talks or the purpose of the visit.

Earlier Spain's national radio said Col. Qadhafi would be flying to Palma for a possible meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The government spokesman declined to comment on the report of a meeting with Mr. Arafat.

Spokesman for Mr. Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Madrid said they knew nothing about a possible meeting between Mr. Arafat and Col. Qadhafi.

They said relations between the PLO and Col. Qadhafi were broken last year.

Libyan diplomats in Madrid also said they had not heard anything official about such a meeting.

Libya to buy Greek arms

ATHENS (R) — Libya is negotiating to buy anti-aircraft guns, fast patrol boats and vehicles for its armed forces from Greece, Greek state television has said.

Greek help with Libya's military industry was one of many fields of cooperation agreed on when Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu visited Tripoli in September.

The television said the Greek

sidents of four state-owned Greek arms companies — Rykal, Helios Aerospace Industry (EAV), Hellenic Arms Industry (EAO) and Stryer (Hellas) — are now in Libya negotiating the deals.

Greek Defence Under-Secretary Panagiotis Zakolitos will go to Libya on Thursday for talks with Libyan defence officials and a protocol will be signed during his visit, it added.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:30 Children's Programmes
18:00 Chops
19:30 Programme Review
19:40 Week's Event
19:45 Music
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Competition Programmes
21:35 Tomorrow's Programmes
21:45 Arabic Play
22:00 News in Arabic
22:10 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:15 News in French
19:30 The Hello Goodbye Man
20:30 Towards 2000
21:10 Charlie
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature film: Casino

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
09:30 News Summary
10:00 Pop Session
10:30 News Summary
11:00 News Summary
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13:30 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Just A Minute
15:00 Concert Hour
15:30 News Summary
16:00 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favorites
17:00 Special Features
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Good Old Days
19:00 Music
19:30 News with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Evening Show
22:00 News Summary
22:30 Evening Show
23:00 News Summary
23:30 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Pop Session 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:45 The Evening News 09:00 World News 09:05 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Cole Porter and His Music 09:45 Reflections 10:15 Country Music Special 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Monitor 12:00 The Ideal Cast 12:30 Three Men in A Boat 12:50 World News 12:55 News about Britain 13:15 News Ideas 13:25 The Week in News 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio Newsworld 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Newsweek 15:45 Seabirds and Snoflowers 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Juke Box Drive 17:00 Radio Newsworld 17:15 The Pleasure's Yours 18:00 World News 18:05 Country Music 18:15 Assignment 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05 Meridian 19:30 World News 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Discovery 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Report on Religion 22:00 World News 22:05 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Business Matters 23:00 News Summary 23:05 In the Moment 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 24:00 World News 00:25 The Week in News 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News Commentary 01:10 News Bulletin 01:30 Instrumentals 01:40 Just A Minute 01:50 Concert Hour 02:00 News Summary 02:30 Instrumentals 02:40 Old Favorites 02:50 Special Features 03:00 Pop Session 03:30 News Summary 03:40 Good Old Days 03:50 Music 04:00 News with a Star 04:10 Evening Show 04:30 News Summary 04:40 Evening Show 04:50 News Summary 05:00 Evening Show 05:10 News Summary 05:20 Evening Show 05:30 News Summary 05:40 Close Down

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1250, SW 720, 95.5, 11740, 11925 & 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour. 15:00 News 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 19:30 Special English News and Features 19:50 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Magazine Show 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English and Features 21:00 News Summary 21:30 Music USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays, Tel. 30128.

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition of oils and watercolours by Nello (Swiss) at 6:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre until Dec. 22.

* An exhibition of ornaments by Sabat Urtag Al Rasheed at 5:00 p.m. at the Registry Palace Hotel.

* A Palestinian national documentary exhibition at 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 24).

FILM

* Italian film week at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 21).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41520
British Council 361475
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.C.A. 664251
American Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Nabata and Jerash (4th to 16th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jerash Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf (Citadel) Hill. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century oriental artists. Mount Zabal, Jabel Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m.

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 532520, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:00 Cairo (MS)
09:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Bucharest (RO)
09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran (RJ)
10:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
11:30 Islamabad, Ankara (TS)
12:05 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Tripoli, Laraca (LN)
14:40 Kuwait (KU)
14:40 Cairo (RJ)
14:45 Baghdad (IA)
14:45 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
17:30 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (JA)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:40 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
18:10 Amsterdam, Larnaca (KLM)
18:15 Zurich, Laraca (SR)
19:25 Athens (OA)
20:20 Athens (OA)
20:20 Cairo (MS)
20:30 London (RJ)
01:10 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

05:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Cairo (MS)
08:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:00 Beirut (MS)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:15 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
12:05 Paris, Dhahran (SV)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
13:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Laraca, Tripoli (LN)
15:50 Laraca (CY)
16:40 Kuwait (KU)
17:15 Baghdad (IA)
19:30 Kuwait (RJ)
19:45 Doha, Muscat (RJ)

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luweibdeh, 27440.
St. Ekerian Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church: Central in the Red-cemeteries, 41559.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.
St. Ekerian Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 81634.

PRAYER TIMES

06:04 Fajr
06:33 Sunrise
11:32 Dhur
14:18 Asr
16:34 Maghreb
18:02 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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Anglican Church: Central in the Red-cemeteries, 41

NEWS IN BRIEF

Finance committee discusses budget

AMMAN (Petra) — The financial committee of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday discussed the general budget law for the year 1985 under the chairmanship of Khalid Al Haj, president of the committee. The meeting was also attended by Minister of Finance Haniya Odeh and General Budget Director Ali Gharaibeh.

Ra'd to open Al Hussein bazaar Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid will open at the Marriott Hotel in Amman on Friday a charitable bazaar organised by Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. On display at the one-day bazaar are needlework, embroidery, woven garments and straw work. Proceeds will benefit the society's projects.

Tunisian team reviews higher education

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the higher education council in Tunis met here Wednesday with Dr. Abdullah Al Zoubi, secretary general of the Higher Education Council in Jordan, to discuss cooperation between the two councils. Mr. Zoubi explained in the delegation the objectives, activities and programmes of the Higher Education Council.

Italian envoy honours Kamal

AMMAN (Petra) — Italian Ambassador in Amman Marquis Fabrizio Longhi Wednesday presented former Jordan Television Director Mohammad Kamal with a high-order Italian medal in appreciation of his contribution to strengthening ties between Jordan and Italy. Mr. Longhi hosted a luncheon Wednesday which was attended by senior Jordanian information officials and the Italian embassy staff in Amman. Mr. Longhi and Mr. Kamal exchanged speeches on the occasion in which they stressed the strong ties linking the two countries in all fields.

WHO official examines school dental services, oral hygiene programmes

By Simona Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Dr. Peter Leous, dental officer for the World Health Organisation (WHO), is currently in Jordan for a six-day visit at the invitation of the Ministry of Health. During his visit, Dr. Leous visited eight schools in Amman, Madaba and Wadi Seer and examined about 200 school children.

While WHO has made several similar surveys in Jordan in the past, the last of which was in 1981, Dr. Leous said his visit is the first one with a very specific theme, that of school dental services in the country. After his survey, Dr. Leous discussed his findings and the general situation with health officers, offering suggestions and sharing experiences and points of view about future possibilities.

Dr. Leous, who had been here previously in 1982, was only concerned with refugee camps during that visit and has no way of comparing the progress in school dental services. He said, however, that Jordan compares very well with other countries.

"There is, in Jordan, great cooperation with WHO," he said, "and all health programmes are developed jointly by the Ministry of Health and WHO. There is a will to learn and improve which is an indispensable basis for any future progress in any field." He said that dentists and health officers in Jordan are all very cooperative in the discussion of problems and possibilities.

"The Ministry of Health is doing a very good job," Dr. Leous added, "examining children, advising and referring them to specialists. Of course, improvements can and should always be made. Regarding the school dental services, they are at least in existence, which is a very good step, but they need to be expanded on a wider scale to cover all school children in the country," he said.

"There is a need for more school dental units," he said, "but how such a project will be carried out is entirely up to the local authorities." Dr. Leous said that it is very encouraging to see Jordan's plans for a public health system for school children, which he described as a very good programme which needs to be implemented.

Preventive methods

"Regarding prevention," Dr. Leous continued, "it is positive that fluoridation is now available to all children and recommended by dentists, and dental and oral hygiene education is given in all schools. Improvements, however, are needed in this area since some schools have a much higher standard compared to others," he said.

While the dental personnel is still limited and most dentists are too busy with clinical work to dedicate their services to prevention in schools, Dr. Leous believes a practical solution would be to have the dentists train the school teachers to offer such information to the students, and that the two sectors work in cooperation.

"Some schools in Amman and the one in Wadi Seer had a practically perfect programme of prevention and oral hygiene education because the teachers were giving the advice with the dentists supervising," Dr. Leous said.

Periodontal problems, common in Middle East countries, are high among children only in school where oral hygiene was not emphasised. Dr. Leous discovered during his survey, "Dental caries, however, is slowly and gradually increasing in Amman," he said.

"This shows that prevention works in slowing down the process, but it is not sufficient to completely stop it or eradicate it."

Dr. Leous will leave Jordan on Friday, taking with him a very positive image of the country's efforts in improving dental and general health.



WOMEN'S AFFAIRS: Her Majesty Queen Noor meets with Haja Marjan (second right) wife of Sultan Mada Hassan Al Bokiah of Brunei and the Sultan's sisters. During the meeting they reviewed women's affairs in Brunei and Jordan (Petra photo)

Budget aims to achieve social justice, industry revitalisation, Anani says

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "1985 budget was planned, taking into consideration projects that should be implemented within a year and the proposed projects are not projections, but rather a reflection of a procedures to prove that the economic planners are capable of managing the Jordanian economy despite difficult conditions," Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani said Tuesday.

Dr. Anani was giving a lecture on "The Economic Module and its Implementation in Jordan," at the American University of Beirut's Alumni Club in Amman. Dr. Anani questioned whether there really is an economic module in Jordan, and if such a module does exist, from where could it be derived.

He said that the main basic, comprehensive economic thinking could be derived from: the concept of income and wealth, concept of land and population and the relation between the ruler and ruled, which he said is a unique relationship in which forgiving is dominant and you do not find a spirit of revenge. "Any man who has gone against the law could some day become a minister," he said.

Dr. Anani stressed the importance of article No. 23 in the Jordanian constitution which says that the Jordanian economy should be incorporated in such a way as to create employment opportunities. "Thus, the Jordanian constitution is, in my opinion, the best constitution in terms of preserving individual rights and duties, and that the philosophy of martial laws is only a temporary procedure to defend the Jordanian constitution," the minister added.

The minister referred to the 1985 budget saying that it was proposed in such a way in order to create a solid reaction to the problem of oil and current international affairs, especially that international issues have a direct reflection on the economical status of any country.

Discussing the 1985 budget, the minister said that it stresses on four important economical aspects: domestic revenues should be increased, imports should be decreased as the value of the dollar risen and Arab financial aid has decreased. He also said that 1985 budget aims to revitalise forestaken sectors, transportation, contracting services and tourism.

Dr. Anani expressed hope that the industrial sector will improve in terms of increasing exports, decreasing imports and thus the deficit in the budget could be reduced.

Dr. Anani said that the 1985 budget is not a numerical expectation, but a work plan that reflects the government's target in each mentioned figure. On the other hand, to be able to meet and assess these figures, new policies should be adapted.

Photographic display, traditional embroidery illustrate Palestinian 'roots', cultural heritage

AMMAN (JT) — At the Royal Cultural Centre this week is an interesting exhibition entitled "Palestine — The Roots". Arranged by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA) in cooperation with the Society of Islamic Culture in Hebron to celebrate the "National Archives Week", the exhibition comprises three main parts.

First, filling shelves along the length of one wall is a display of books, both in Arabic and English about all aspects of Jordan and Palestine. Next is a large photographic exhibition, the main theme of which is the Palestinian struggle on the West Bank. In addition there are many photographs of the Hashemite family — of His Majesty King Abdullah, of His Majesty King Talal visiting Nablus in 1951 and of His Majesty King Hussein visiting Irbid in 1953 among many more.

There are also photographs of places and towns of both the East and West Banks — Hebron, Jerusalem, Nablus, Amman, Petra and the River Jordan — showing them as they were over 100 years ago. Punctuating the photographs are several photocopies of rare documents such as the handwritten note from the Sheriff of Mecca, El Hussein Ibn Ali, to his son, Amir Faisal, urging him to assist the recently graduated army officers.

As well as maps showing the extent of the Israeli settlements on the West Bank, there are also several other items on display which give an idea of the DLDNA's activities over the past few years.

Traditional embroidery

The third part of the exhibition is given over to the display of framed pieces of embroidery made by members of the Society of Islamic Culture in Hebron. Using the traditional cross-stitch technique, many original designs have been crafted, whose subjects range from mosaic-like pictures of animals and trees to maps of the West Bank where each of the townships are marked by a small patch of the traditional embroidery pattern of that area. These traditional patterns also form the basis of many other finely made pieces.

Before the official opening of the exhibition by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud, a small seminar was held at which Dr. Suhailah Rimawi from the University of Jordan talked about the importance of documents in historical studies and Dr. Jamal Salim spoke about the Israeli settlements and the current financial status of the West Bank.

The exhibition runs until December 24.

Miss Kildani explained that the Prince Hassan National Award Scheme is a programme of leisure time activities designed to stimulate and encourage young people's sense of social responsibility and to develop their self-reliance through personal and social achievements. The pilot scheme of the award programme aims to encourage service to citizens who need a helping hand. Young people participating in the scheme can choose one form of service and can receive training in this field or give practical services in their chosen area. Awards are given at three levels, bronze, silver and gold given in three stages at the end of

Students from the International Baccalaureate School take part in a tree-planting session in Al Mahatta district as part of their community activities programme.

a scholastic year. The bronze awards will be awarded at the end of the current academic year, Miss Kildani said.

Miss Kildani went on to say that the tree planting programme, is one of several community activities planned or in progress and added that students from the IBS are helping out and cooperating with the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) centre for special education at Bunyat. The students are also doing voluntary work at the Swedish school for the handicapped in Sweileh and some students are busy with training courses run by the Civil Defence Department which are held at the school. Starting in January, the University of Jordan Nursing College will be holding a first-aid training course for the students, Miss Kildani added.

Students from the IBS who are participating in the award scheme will also be engaged in activities in three other fields: expeditions, skills and physical recreation. Miss Kildani said that commencing in January, the IBS will send students on camping and outdoor activity excursions in the rural areas. The school also hopes to coordinate with the Royal Cultural Centre to present a joint theatrical production in addition to developing students' skills in other areas including sports and other activities.

Community activities at the school are organised and run by Brian Maudeley, Nayef Abu Adieh and Miss Kildani, an active, energetic and enthusiastic team who are promoting and encouraging worthwhile extra curricular activities for the students within the framework of the award scheme.

RSCN pledges to preserve marine environment

Jordan dismisses Israeli pipeline pollution claims

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Wednesday refuted Israel's claims that the waters of Aqaba Gulf will be polluted by exporting Iraqi oil via Aqaba port.

Mr. Anis Mu'asher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) said that Jordan is a signatory to an agreement for the prevention of pollution in the Red Sea, concluded by the Red Sea littoral countries. Mr. Mu'asher said that Jordan is keen on respecting the terms of the agreement which call for maintaining clean shores and preserving marine life in Aqaba Gulf. Jordan has put all activities under strict control to ensure that none of them cause any pollution or damage to nature, Mr. Mu'asher added.

His views were published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) gazette in reply to an article published by the Israeli society for the conservation of nature which tried to focus attention on alleged dangers to the Gulf and its marine life from Iraqi oil exported through the port.

The Israeli conservation society published an open letter alleging that the proposed American-backed project to pipe oil from Iraq to Aqaba could be a threat to marine flora and fauna in the Gulf of Aqaba. The letter claimed that any large oil spill would destroy the delicate ecological balance in the Gulf waters.

"The only source of concern and danger to marine life in the region lies in the continuous underwater explosions carried out by the Israeli authorities in the Gulf waters under the pretext of offering protection to the shores against infiltration," Mr. Mu'asher replied. "It is these blasts which have been going on four or five times daily over the past years which kill marine life," he added.

Any effort for protecting sea life in the Gulf and preventing pollution should be concentrated on halting these Israeli explosions, Mr. Mu'asher pointed out. He said that the RSCN keeps an office in Aqaba which maintains constant control over all activities in the area. This office operates in cooperation with the coast guards, the port authority and the Yarmouk University Marine Science Station with the aim of preventing pollution which is normally caused by ships, the loading and unloading operations at the port as well as by industrial and tourist activities, he said.

The office pays special attention to preserving marine life, especially the coral reefs under the water surface, Mr. Mu'asher added.

Although the risk of pollution is omnipresent in all seas because of maritime transport, the Jordanian government has taken all necessary measures to stop pollution that destroys marine life and this includes supervision of a pipeline export Iraqi oil from Aqaba, Mr. Mu'asher said.

Aqaba, he added, is the only Jordanian outlet to the sea but the city is considered one of the major tourist centres that has been maintained clean and free of pollution. Mr. Mu'asher also voiced the society's determination to maintain a clean and unpolluted Aqaba Gulf region, whatever the cost.

Sharaf asks information media to research social problems

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Laila Sharaf Wednesday requested the participants in a training course on script writing for radio, television and the press to make a study of Jordan's social problems, possible solutions and ways of involving local communities in carrying out these solutions.

The minister was addressing the closing session of an 11-day course which was attended by 30 participants from various information media who were oriented on defining problems which they encounter while they carry out their duties. Participants also reviewed communication with local communities.

Mrs. Sharaf stressed the need for maintaining constant dialogue with the community and proposed that a club for development information be set up where various ideas could be discussed and solutions crystallised with a view to offering better services to the community.

The training course issued a statement recommending that field information campaigns be launched to discover the best means of realising the aims of development schemes in Jordan. The seminar also recommended that social and demographic research work be conducted to help find solutions to problems and so help planners in their work.

IBS students lend their helping hands

Text and photo
by Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In implementation of Crown Prince Hassan's National Award Scheme for young people, students at the International Baccalaureate School (IBS) have started a tree planting programme as the first community activity in the school.

Miss Samar Kildani, who is in charge of community activities at the IBS, told the Jordan Times that the planting project, which started this week, will be continued during the weekends of December and January. Miss Kildani said that the tree planting project at Al Mahatta was suggested by Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh as part of the "Beautifying Amman" programme. The park which the IBS students are planting has been designed to be both attractive and functional and will include walkways and a children's playground.

Miss Kildani explained that the Prince Hassan National Award Scheme is a programme of leisure time activities designed to stimulate and encourage young people's sense of social responsibility and to develop their self-reliance through personal and social achievements. The pilot scheme of the award programme aims to encourage service to citizens who need a helping hand. Young people participating in the scheme can choose one form of service and can receive training in this field or give practical services in their chosen area. Awards are given at three levels, bronze, silver and gold given in three stages at the end of

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a scholastic year. The bronze awards will be awarded at the end of the current academic year, Miss Kildani said.

Miss Kildani went on to say that the tree planting programme, is one of several community activities planned or in progress and added that students from the IBS are helping out and cooperating with the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) centre for special education at Bunyat. The students are also doing voluntary work at the Swedish school for the handicapped in Sweileh and some students are busy with training courses run by the Civil Defence Department which are held at the school. Starting in January, the University of Jordan Nursing College will be holding a first-aid training course for the students, Miss Kildani added.

Students from the IBS who are participating in the award scheme will also be engaged in activities in three other fields: expeditions, skills and physical recreation. Miss Kildani said that commencing in January, the IBS will send students on camping and outdoor activity excursions in the rural areas. The school also hopes to coordinate with the Royal Cultural Centre to present a joint theatrical production in addition to developing students' skills in other areas including sports and other activities.

Community activities at the school are organised and run by Brian Maudeley, Nayef Abu Adieh and Miss Kildani, an active, energetic and enthusiastic team who are promoting and encouraging worthwhile extra curricular activities for the students within the framework of the award scheme.



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Miss Kildani went on to say that the tree planting programme, is one of several community activities planned or in progress and added that students from the IBS are helping out and cooperating with the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) centre for special education at Bunyat. The students are also doing voluntary work at the Swedish school for the handicapped in Sweileh and some students are busy with training courses run by the Civil Defence Department which are held at the school. Starting in January, the University of Jordan Nursing College will be holding a first-aid training course for the students, Miss Kildani added.

Students from the IBS who are participating in the award scheme will also be engaged in activities in three other fields: expeditions, skills and physical recreation. Miss Kildani said that commencing in January, the IBS will send students on camping and outdoor activity excursions in the rural areas. The school also hopes to coordinate with the Royal Cultural Centre to present a joint theatrical production in addition to developing students' skills in other areas including sports and other activities.

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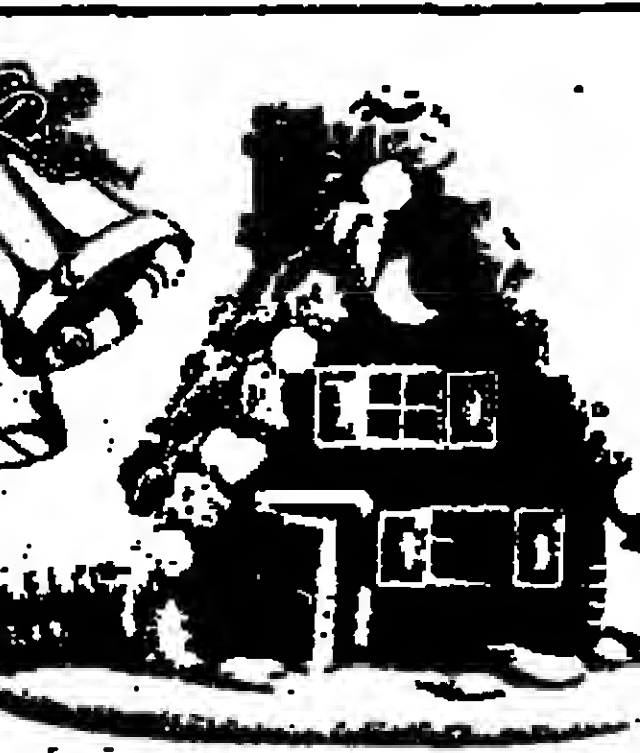
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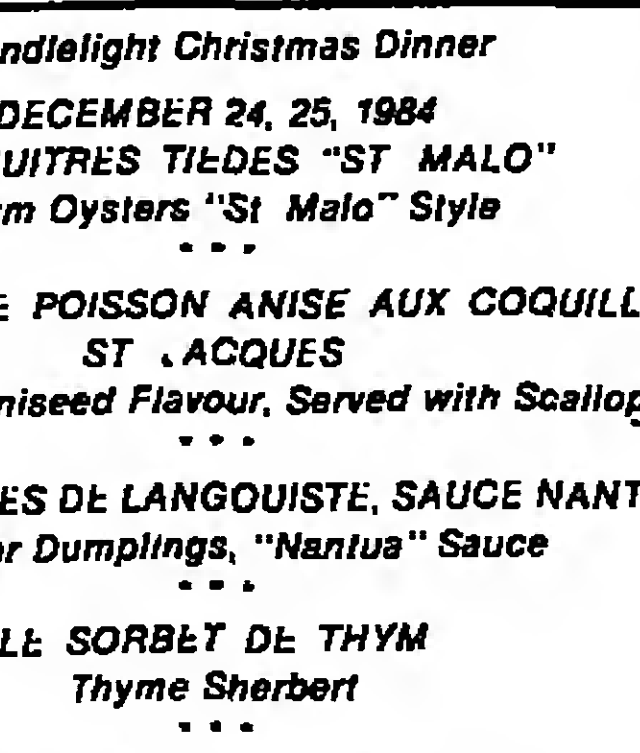
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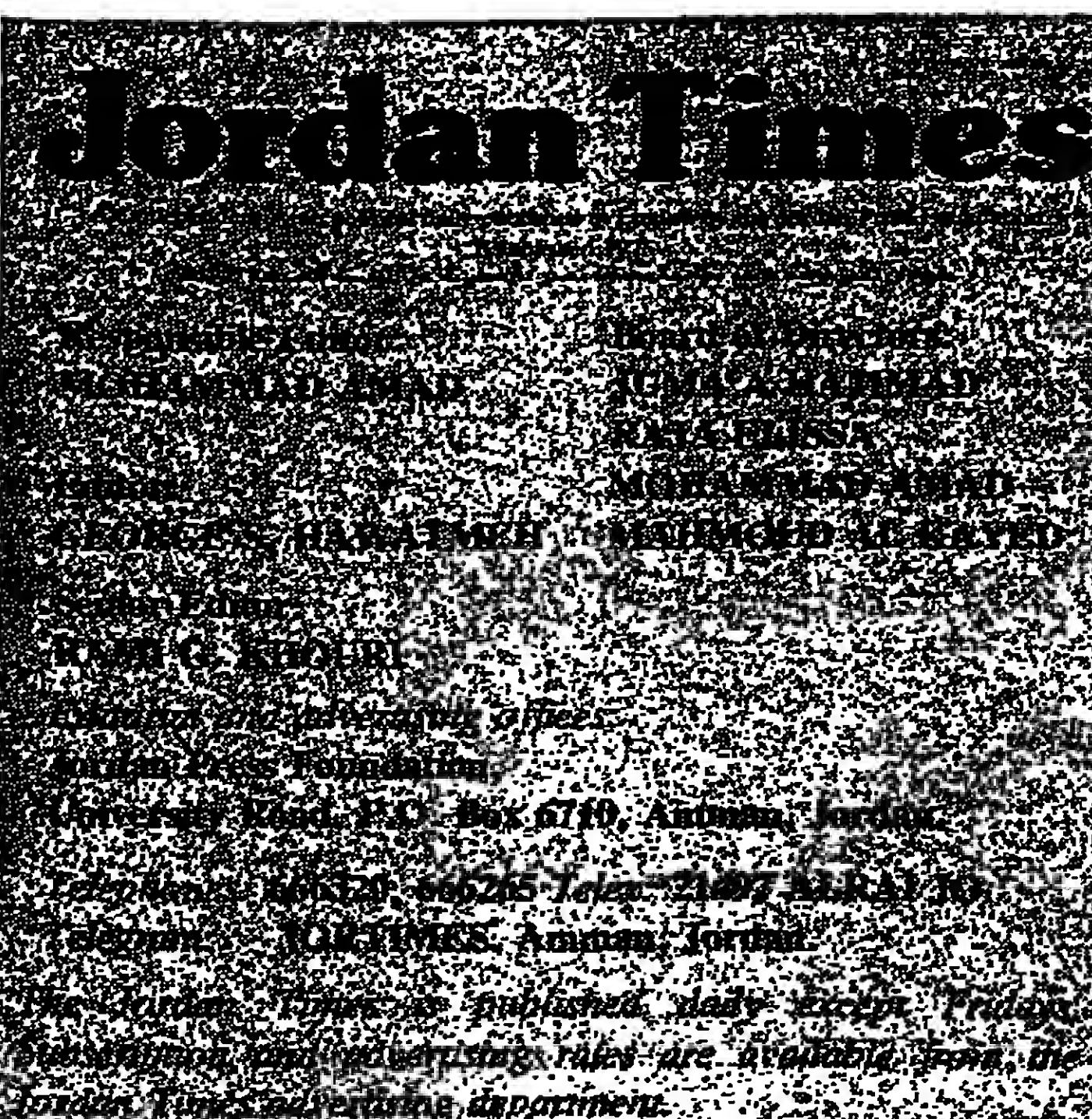
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Success at Naqoura?

TODAY, Thursday, is the day which Israeli officials have said will be crucial in determining whether Israel would stay at the negotiating table with Lebanon at Naqoura. Over the past several weeks, the Israelis have been issuing veiled and direct threats that are seen by observers as tactical pressure on Lebanon to make it accept Israel's terms, but Lebanon has been firm in rejecting Israeli demands.

Israel wants United Nations forces to act as a buffer with Syrian forces in the east and feeding Lebanese militias in the coastal zone, and it wants the Lebanese militia which it had been arming to patrol the sensitive border zone to prevent any infiltration into Israel. The talks have not so far achieved any progress due to the impossible Israeli demands which were described by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami last Monday as an attempt for partitioning Lebanon.

Of course, Lebanon cannot accept humiliating terms that are designed to perpetuate the fragmentation of the country and deny the Beirut government the right to deploy its army anywhere over Lebanese sovereign territory. Israel's terms are in fact demands of an invading power trying to reap the benefit of a campaign launched more than two years ago against a small nation, and are considered blackmail attempts against a helpless country, left alone by all Arabs to face the U.S.-backed Zionist war machine alone.

As the Arab countries, specially Syria, failed to help out in the process of forcing the Israelis out of Lebanon, the matter was all but left entirely for the Lebanese resistance, supported by the remaining Palestinian commandos to inflict as many casualties as possible on the occupation troops.

The intensified attacks on the Israelis led the Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, to say in a recent interview with the daily Haaretz newspaper that he was in favour of pulling out Israeli troops from Lebanon and taking the risk; and that he was not inclined to carry out a partial withdrawal as some officials in Israel were threatening to do, specially around Sidon where Israeli casualties had been heavy.

Peres had a meeting Wednesday with his cabinet and senior aides to try to find a strategy for Thursday's round of talks which will be the last before the Christmas holidays. But it seems that the deadlock still exists. If the Israelis do withdraw totally from South Lebanon and the Naqoura talks are called off, the Lebanese government will have achieved a tactical success over the Israelis, as the chance will be open for Karami to deploy the central government's army everywhere. This is fine if President Amin Gemayel and his government can guarantee the cooperation of the feuding militia in order to achieve this success.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Greater role for Islamic mediation

ISLAMIC FOREIGN ministers opened meetings in Sanaa Monday to discuss a number of problems of common concern. The topics on the agenda seem to be the same as those discussed in the previous meeting, but it is hoped that ministers will try to tackle them in a more objective manner, this time to achieve good results.

One of the major issues to be discussed is the Iran-Iraq war, which has caused so much bloodshed, destruction and weakness to the Islamic cause. It is unrealistic that this war should be allowed to continue indefinitely, while Islamic nations remain impasse as to the victims and the material losses on both sides.

It is not enough for the Islamic nations to issue calls for stopping the war or to send mediation teams to try to arrange a ceasefire. The Islamic nations have the necessary means of putting an end to this war, and can do that if their leaders so do wish.

Involving Iraq in a war of attrition is not only one of Iran's objectives but rather a target of imperialist nations which are happy to see Islamic nations weakened. These nations are delighted at the war because it is a means for them to make economic and political gains, and it is regrettable to say that some Arab countries are adopting this same attitude.

The foreign ministers of Islamic nations should also find a way to solve the Palestine problem since Jerusalem is a holy place for all Muslims, and saving the holy places is a duty for all Muslims. It is not enough for the Islamic nations to announce their condemnation of the Zionist plans and the U.S.-Israeli alliance. What is required is real action to save the land and its people.

Al Dustour: Deepening Israeli crisis

AT PRESENT there is a political crisis in Israel and it is said that it is due to a change in the cabinet portfolios which is not satisfactory to one of the ruling coalition partners. In fact, the present crisis is deeply rooted and reflects a weakness in the Israeli political and social structure, in addition to the economic difficulties the Zionist state is now suffering from. Whether this crisis ends up with a collapse of the present coalition or the emergence of a new factor which would cement it, there is no permanent cure for the Zionist state, except in abandoning its aggressive policies and ambitions in Arab lands.

Ever since Israel was established in Palestine, there had been differences among the ruling factions, but the last parliamentary election was instrumental in exposing to the whole world the deep divisions among the rulers over wide ranging issues including the invasion of Lebanon. The present cabinet crisis came to reaffirm these deep divisions and to underline the vulnerability of the Zionist society which lacks all means of existence.

The only way to perpetuate these divisions and finally cause them to bring about a collapse of the Israeli society lies in Arab unity and unification of Arab ranks and mobilisation of Arab countries resources.

Sawt Al Shaab: Gulf war, Jerusalem Islamic priorities

BEFORE THE Islamic foreign ministers' meeting in Sanaa is a list of important issues. Among these is the problem of Jerusalem, where Al Aqsa Mosque and the other holy places are being desecrated at the hands of the Zionists. Another problem is the Iran-Iraq war, which is continuing to sap the resources of Islamic nations and weakening their solidarity.

The Islamic summit conference held in Casablanca last year had laid down outlines for a joint Islamic action, and it is left to the foreign ministers now to try to handle issues of common concern in an objective and serious manner. Millions of Muslims around the world look to this conference in Sanaa as a ray of hope for meaningful action designed to end Islamic divisions and give momentum to social and economic progress.

We regret to hear that certain Arab and Muslim states have been trying to distract the ministers' attention from the basic issues and to divert them to secondary problems. The liberation of Jerusalem and its holy places and halting the Iran-Iraq war should be the major priorities for the ministers, who should find a means for launching a holy war to liberate the land and save its people.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Islam shall return to illuminate the world

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — I have a sense, as a historian, that we are seeing the beginning of a new chapter in history in the Middle East. One can only have a sense of such things, because there is no way of proving it until many years later. But something has happened to the actors on the Middle Eastern stage. They have changed.

The biggest change is that there no longer is any commanding actor. There is no great power which can command and get obedience. No Ottoman Empire. No Britain. No U.S. No Soviet Union.

Israel, which until recently aspired to be the Prussia of the Middle East, is beginning a decline. It still has enough weaponry to kill millions of people, but its economy is in shambles and the artificiality of

its society is becoming evident. And even in the U.S. it has lost the moral aura it once enjoyed.

Nationalism, that ideological import from 19th century Europe, is also declining. What does it mean to have "national pride" for an entity that exists only because of boundaries laid down in London or Paris?

Marxism (and its many "revolutionary" variants) is also a dying ideology. So is the strange blend of religion and Marxism which has appeared in the Middle East as well as in Latin America. The Iranian Revolution has been a bitter disappointment.

What is left? Islam, of course, that set of ideas which 1400 years ago created one of the greatest civilisations in the world.

If a new chapter is to begin in the Middle East, it will not be

because one leader or one ideology or one arsenal of weapons takes power over all the others. It will only be if that aura of morality and righteousness and vision which Islam threw upon the world so many centuries ago will be repeated. The Koran speaks of God as the Light of the heavens and the earth, and it is like a lamp in a glass that shines like a brilliant star.

Maybe God intended that the explosion of a nuclear weapon which commits evil on a mammoth scale seem like an exploding star. Light can bring destruction or it can bring the greatest good known to humankind.

Most Americans would laugh at the notion that a moral aura could come from the Middle East. Their image of Arabs

is that they quarrel, engage in terrorism, are either a rich minority or a vast majority of poor fellahin or bedouins. And of all great religions, none has been so badly depicted in an American press generally tolerant of religions.

Maybe many Arabs themselves despair of their once great civilisation coming back. But there are many examples in Arab history where during the worst kind of internal warfare suddenly a light appeared and the darkness disappeared. Just a thousand years ago, for example, a great and wise ruler, Abdurrahman III ended the feuding among the many Muslim princelings in Spain and created a civilisation whose shining remnants can still today be seen in the city of Cordoba.

In that ancient Islamic

world, Spain, Egypt, and the Iraq were three great centres. Each had its own brilliance even if as happened so often, base rulers took power. The civilisation was far greater than whoever happened to sit on the throne. We know that Spain was eventually conquered by Christians, that Egypt declined, and that Baghdad was destroyed by the Mongols. But we must remember that that tripod of Arab civilisation lasted six hundred years!

Light can come from ugly beginnings. A pile of gasoline soaked papers covered with wood scraps and lit by something that looks so ridiculous as a match can create a stunning flame, leaping into the air with the power of passion. It gives light and warmth. And it can make other things burn to do evil or good.

From a distance, the scene in the Arab and Muslim world as a whole does not look pretty.

Yet where have all the power plays led to? Has light come from the fighting and the haggling? No country has become secure. No great gains have been made. And ironically those who have lost again and again — and again — sometimes come right back up to the top.

The earliest great powers radiated a light — the light of power. Israel once thought that a light radiated from itself. Nationalism and Marxism made young people believe and fight with pride in earlier days. No more. All their lights have gone out. The challenge to Arabs and Muslims now is to let the light go on again in a part of the world where civilisation began 5000 years ago.

More than meets the eye in Israeli government's crisis

By David Landau

THE CRISIS over Shas is not nearly as petty as many pundits suggest.

Premier Peres knew what he was doing when he decided to call on Rabbi Ovadia Yosef at 11 p.m. Saturday.

Nor were the Likud ministers insensitive Sunday, as Health Minister Mordechai Gur implied, when they left Sunday's cabinet debate on defence spending to caucus with Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, the Shas leader.

Both Labour and Likud know what is at stake. And what is at stake is not merely the integrity of the national unity coalition.

The issue is the struggle for the centre. The historic battle between the two major political movements for what in other countries, with other systems, are called the "floating votes," and in our country might be called the "floating parties."

The left-liberals who fault Peres for praying at the Western Wall, for eating kosher in Paris, for hol-

ding nocturnal meetings with rabbis do not like it, but even they recognise that the "floating parties" are the religious parties. Time and again the cruel electoral arithmetic has proved that without their fickle and frustrating alliance, no stable government is possible.

Former Prime Minister Menachem Begin is not orthodox, but he had no trouble recognising this reality.

In 1977 he won the battle outright, and again in 1981. The religious bloc was swept into the "national camp." One of his most acute and penetrating disciples, Dan Meridor MK, considers this the master's greatest political achievement.

Of course there were other factors which aided him in his victory. But the fact remains that Begin's successful wooing of the National Religious Party, Agudat Yisrael, and Poalei Agudat Yisrael enabled him to castrate the Democratic Movement for Change under Yigael Yadin between 1977 and 1981, and to return to power

comfortably in 1981 — even though Likud won only one more Knesset seat than Labour.

In 1984, the worm began to turn.

Again, there were objective factors — Lebanon, the strangulation of the NRP in the Likud's bear hug and Begin's retirement.

But Peres was clear-eyed enough to seize the opportunity. Assiduously he wooed and cajoled what was left of the NRP out of the Likud's embrace and into a renewed — still fledgling and bashful — "historic alliance" between Labour Zionism and religious Zionism.

Agudat Yisrael, also in sad straits after the election, nearly followed suit. Throughout the coalition negotiations this ultra-Orthodox party, now solidly Ashkenazi, perched on the fence. Half of its leaders made no bones of their disenchantment with Likud and their preference for Labour, reneging on the deal. They heard Corfu fling back Peretz's accusation of inconstancy. They heard him imply that the Shas men

were job-seekers.

And now Shas. After all, Shas's voters are not fools. They heard Haim Corfu (Likud-Herut) accuse Peretz of And they will begin to see, as the Begin magic continues to fade, that there is no intrinsic ideological identity between political extremism and religious Orthodoxy. That Peres, as a moderate, undogmatic Israeli, can empathise with the profound beliefs of so many of his fellow-countrymen as authentically as the more bombastic Herut men.

When Peres met with Rabbi Yosef on Saturday night — a man revered by hundreds of thousands of people (voters), the rabbi spent a full 10 minutes praising the premier for having walked on Friday night through the cold Paris streets to his meeting with Yves Montand and Simone Signoret, and for having had kosher food served to him at the Elysee.

Does that cause the premier's left-liberal critics unbearable concern or embarrassment? If so — and to judge by a flurry of media comment, it does — then that is just a sad reflection of how askew intelligent people's political priorities can sometimes become.



Peres and Shamir make the struggle fit

Levy's judgement is sounder. So is Vice-Premier Shamir's. Hence their frantic efforts to prevent Shas's departure.

For they know that the secession of Shas could be not merely the dislodging of the first stone in

the unity coalition," as Peretz puts it, but another ominous (for the Likud) rolling of another religious stone away from the hitherto almost impenetrable bastion of the nationalist religious alliance — The Jerusalem Post.

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Parents can halve children's death rate

UNICEF's 1985 "State of the World's Children" report argues that "just four relatively simple and inexpensive methods could now enable parents themselves to halve the rate of child deaths in the developing world and save the lives of 20,000 children every day". The methods are breast-feeding, immunisation, oral rehydration therapy, and basic advice to mothers on growth monitoring and child feeding. Together, says the report, they could bring about "a low-cost revolution in child health and child survival".

The combined power of these simple strategies is undeniable: they have already shown that they can reduce child deaths by half on a small scale. But the real problem is how to put this revolution at the disposal of the vast majority of parents who are not served by doctors, nurses, daisies or any kind of modern health service.

UNICEF's answer is to make this a do-it-yourself revolution — by using all possible channels to inform and support parents themselves in the task of drastically improving child health by their own actions — without depending on the official health services. The communication capacity to achieve this is also now in place, says the UNICEF report. Over 8,000 radio stations are broadcasting to a billion transistors in the developing world. A total of 2,500 TV stations are sending programmes to 80 million sets. And with over 8,000 daily newspapers, the developing nations have a third of the world's readership. Today, more than half of all adults are literate. And in most nations, 90 per cent of all children can now be reached through the schools. Increasingly, people are involved in community organisations through which they can be reached and by which they can

participate. Voluntary agencies — 12,000 in India alone — have multiplied throughout the poorest areas. And perhaps most important of all, the governments of the developing world have trained millions of paramedical staff, volunteers, extension officers, and community development workers over the last decade.

It is this "revolution in the capacity to reach" as much as the advances in knowledge itself, says UNICEF, which now makes a child survival revolution possible. The trick, of course, is to put the two together. And the 1985 "State of the World's Children" report draws together some examples of what can be done when present capacity gets behind present knowledge.

In Nigeria, for example, the rapid expansion of primary education has made it possible for the government to call on its 230,000 primary-school teachers to promote knowledge about oral rehydration therapy and the importance of immunisation to many millions of children and their parents.

In Indonesia, the presence in the villages of 7,000 trained family planning workers has made it possible to also train 400,000 more volunteers to manage a programme of low-cost techniques designed to reduce the country's child death rate by half in the next fifteen years. In Pakistan, 12,000 traditional birth attendants have attended courses on low-cost techniques for child survival. In India, the Integrated Child Development Services programme is now regularly reaching over 10 million children in the poorest villages and urban neighbourhoods. In Sri Lanka, 6,000 Sarodaya volunteers are now promoting the techniques of the child survival revolution in 4,000 villages. In Brazil this year, over 400,000 vol-



Two-thirds of the developing world's people have no modern health-care (UNICEF photo)

unteers have helped to immunise the vast majority of the nation's children. In Colombia, the health services have enlisted the support of 30,000 Red Cross workers, the mass media, the Boy Scouts, the police and army medical services, and over 2,000 parish priests, in a campaign which has seen three-quarters of the nation's children immunised in the last twelve months. In Indonesia, thousands of Muslim religious leaders are supporting nutrition campaigns. In Bangladesh, over a thousand workers of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee have carried the message about oral rehydration therapy into 2.5 mil-

lion individual households across the country.

Of all these resources, local community health workers are among the most important. "Even with only a few weeks' training," says the report, "community health workers can now bring to a community the knowledge and the technology to help parents halve the rate of deaths and malnutrition among their children."

At the moment, 85 per cent of most health budgets is spent on high technology and highly qualified manpower based in hospitals catering for a small minority. "But a relatively small shift in this pat-

tern of spending," says the report, "could release the resources to train large numbers of community health workers. In Latin America, for example, the medical schools plan to produce an additional 200,000 doctors by 1990. For the same cost, it would be possible to train a few less doctors — say 150,000 — plus one million primary health care workers to live in poor communities and help make available the knowledge and the techniques for drastically reducing child illness and child deaths among the majority of the population."

"The four basic strategies of the

child survival revolution," concludes UNICEF, "can be distilled down to an essence of simple, practicable information which most parents can act on. And they are so inexpensive that almost any family can afford to put them into practice, and almost any government can afford to support the attempt."

"In our national societies and in the international community, we have the knowledge, we have the techniques, we have the organisational capacity. We are therefore confronted with a stark question: Do we have the will?" — UNICEF news feature.

Brunei leader begins three-day state visit to Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

"and we all know that the solution for this question can only be achieved through the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return and to self-

determination," he added.

Sultan Muda did not address the Iran-Iraq war but King Hussein indicated in his speech that Brunei could play a positive role in efforts to put an end to the war between the two countries by using its good relations with Iran.

In conclusion, both leaders expressed hope that the visit by Sultan Muda will pave the way for stronger ties on all levels, and in all spheres, between the two countries.

As a gesture of his appreciation, the King also presented the Sherif

Hussein Ibn Ali Medal, the highest Jordanian honour, to the Brunei leader. He also presented Princess Mariam with the Al Nahda Medal.

In return, the Sultan presented the King and Queen with the highest medals of honour in Brunei.

'Jordan's moves represent new hope in Mideast'

(Continued from page 1)

have a larger participation than in any other Arab country," Dr. Munz said, adding that Jordan's long borders with Israel "create a special situation and imposes a great responsibility towards the Palestinians."

On a possible European role in a future Middle East settlement, Dr. Munz said his country "still considers the Venice Declaration (by the European Community) as valid and that "there is no need for new European initiatives."

The Venice Declaration, he said, was welcomed by the PLO and Arab countries and that "issuing new declarations and initiatives would make it lose its (the declaration's) value."

Dr. Munz said European countries "cannot do much individually in regards the Middle East problem. However, the European Community (EC) countries are now co-ordinating their Middle East policy efficiently." He said Europe should exercise its influence on Washington "to move the U.S. policy into a direction that is more acceptable on the

Arab side."

"Maybe we did not succeed in achieving a solution in the past, but we hope we will do better in the future," Dr. Munz said.

Serving as West German ambassador in Jordan "was not a very difficult post," Dr. Munz explained, "because of good bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields" between the Kingdom and his country.

Throughout the last few years, His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan made several visits to Bonn while West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher made return visits to Jordan, demonstrating good bilateral relations.

Dr. Munz said West Germany has no consulate accredited to Israel and that the Amman embassy handles all affairs related to the occupied West Bank. He said that this situation "gives us a special opportunity to assess the situation of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank."

In the field of economic co-operation, Dr. Munz said that West German aid to Jordan did

not suffer cuts like aid to other countries in the region. He said West German aid was used by the Jordanian government "in a very efficient way."

Every year, a meeting is set up by economic delegations from Jordan and West Germany to study development projects to be implemented in the Kingdom through West German aid. So far West German aid to Jordan totalled around JD 130 million (DM 1 billion).

Dr. Munz said that throughout the last decade, West Germany contributed to the development of the southern area of the Kingdom, the Jordan Valley and to the modernisation of the Gulf of Aqaba.

West German geological teams frequently carried out surveys of water resources and oil shale in the last few years. A geological team which made surveys on oil shale in Jordan indicated the availability of large reserves of oil shale which proved to be of best quality according to these geologists.

Dr. Munz told the Jordan Times that oil shale project "is a very ambitious project". However, he said, "it all depends on the dev-

elopment of drilling for crude oil" in the Kingdom.

In the field of cultural and technical co-operation between Jordan and West Germany, he said, Jordanian universities are in close contact with German universities. One of the latest projects implemented in this field was a nuclear accelerator unit installed with West German aid at the University of Jordan.

Dr. Munz has been transferred by the Bonn Foreign Ministry to assume his new post as ambassador to Luxembourg, Amman was his first post in the Middle East. He has also served in West German diplomatic missions in Madrid, Paris and South America before which he worked for eight years at the Foreign Ministry.

Dr. Munz, 61, married with three children, presented his credentials to the Royal Court in August 1979, a few days before a visit to Jordan by Mr. Genscher.

The new post in Luxembourg, Dr. Munz said, represents a "new challenge far too different from the Middle East." However, he will be able to practise more often, his favourite sport of skiing, he said.

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Many Jordanians have visited this South-Asian country and one of them has even established a company there.

Last born among the states of the world, Brunei, which gained its independence on Jan. 1984, has drawn attention to itself. A rich country in resources with only 200,000 inhabitants, looking for qualified manpower, it has particularly opened its doors to Arabs, whom it considers as close friends.

The doors of Brunei were opened to the extent that in Egypt local newspapers had to publish advertisements saying that "Brunei does not exist" in order to stop the flood of emigrants to that country.

Whatever is said, to me Brunei and its young sultan, who is paying a courtesy visit to his older brother, makes me dream. New countries, virgin, with a lot to build and develop... it is something we do not see every day.

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Wrestling federation organises championship

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Wrestling Federation will organise an Arab wrestling championship in Amman on Dec. 27 to mark the birthday of the founder of the Kingdom King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein.

Teams representing Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Syria in addition to Jordan will take part in the 5-day championship which will be held at Al Hussein Sport City.

McEnroe, Navratilova named 1984 top tennis players

NORWALK, Connecticut (AP) — John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova for the second straight year are the world's top male and female tennis players of 1984, according to the annual year-end rankings of Tennis Magazine.

An international panel of seven tennis journalists from six countries was polled for the rankings by Tennis Magazine, which also ranks players according to surface.

McEnroe holds the No. 1 spot among men, having won 13 tournaments, including the U.S. Open and Wimbledon. He only

lost twice in tournament play, falling to Ivan Lendl in the French Open final and to Vijay Amritraj in the first round of the ATP Championships.

Lendl, ranked No. 3 last year, moves up to No. 2, dropping Jimmy Connors to No. 3. The remainder of the top 10 is

dominated by Swedes, led by Mats Wilander, the two-time Australian Open champion, at No. 4. Henrik Sundstrom, Anders Jarryd and Joakim Nystrom are ranked sixth, seventh and ninth, respectively.

Making the men's top 10 for the first time are No. 5 Andres Gomez of Ecuador, No. 8 Pat Cash of Australia and No. 10 Aaron Krickstein, of the United States as the 17-year-old "Rookie of the Year."

Navratilova, winner of three Grand Slam events in 1984, is ranked No. 1 among the women by Tennis Magazine for the third straight year. She suffered losses only in her first and last tournaments of the year, falling to Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia in the final of the Virginia Slims of California and to Helena Sukova in the semifinals of the Australian Open.

Chris Evert Lloyd, the Australian Open champion, maintained the No. 2 ranking, followed by Mandlikova, Pam Shriver of the United States, and Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria.

Rounding out the top 10 are Sukova of Czechoslovakia, Kathy Jordan of the United States, Wendy Turnbull of Australia, Carling Bassett of Canada and Zina Garrison of the United States.

New to the women's top 10 are Maleeva, Sukova, Bassett and Garrison.

In the surface rankings, McEnroe was chosen No. 1 on grass, indoor and hard courts, but ranked No. 2 on clay behind Lendl.

Italian club Napoli denies interest in Hamburg trainer

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Napoli Football Club, languishing in the lower reaches of the Italian first division, Wednesday denied a report that they were seeking to sign Hamburg's Austrian trainer, Ernst Happel.

"This is news to us," said a club spokesman of a report in the sports daily La Gazzetta Dello Sport, which said Napoli wanted Happel to replace trainer Rino Marchesi.

Napoli have had a dismal season, with only nine points from 12 games, despite the services of co-

ty Argentine Diego Maradona. The report said Napoli manager Antonio Juliano had put off at the last minute a planned trip to Hamburg last Sunday to see Happel, whose contract with the German club expires at the end of this season.

Under Italian League rules, which prevent foreigners from becoming trainers of Italian clubs unless they have worked for several years in Italian soccer, Happel would have to become the club's "technical director," and would not be allowed to sit on the touchline during matches.

Tyrrell wins court injunction

PARIS (R) — A Paris court Wednesday provisionally lifted the World Championship ban on the Tyrrell Formula One team.

Court officials said judge Jean-Michel Guth ruled in favour of a petition by Tyrrell under an emergency procedure, pending the outcome of a court case between the team and the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) which is expected to last several months.

Guth accepted the Tyrrell appeal under the special procedure in view of the team's claims that it would lose almost \$2.36 million in subsidies and sponsorship if it was barred from the 1985 championship.

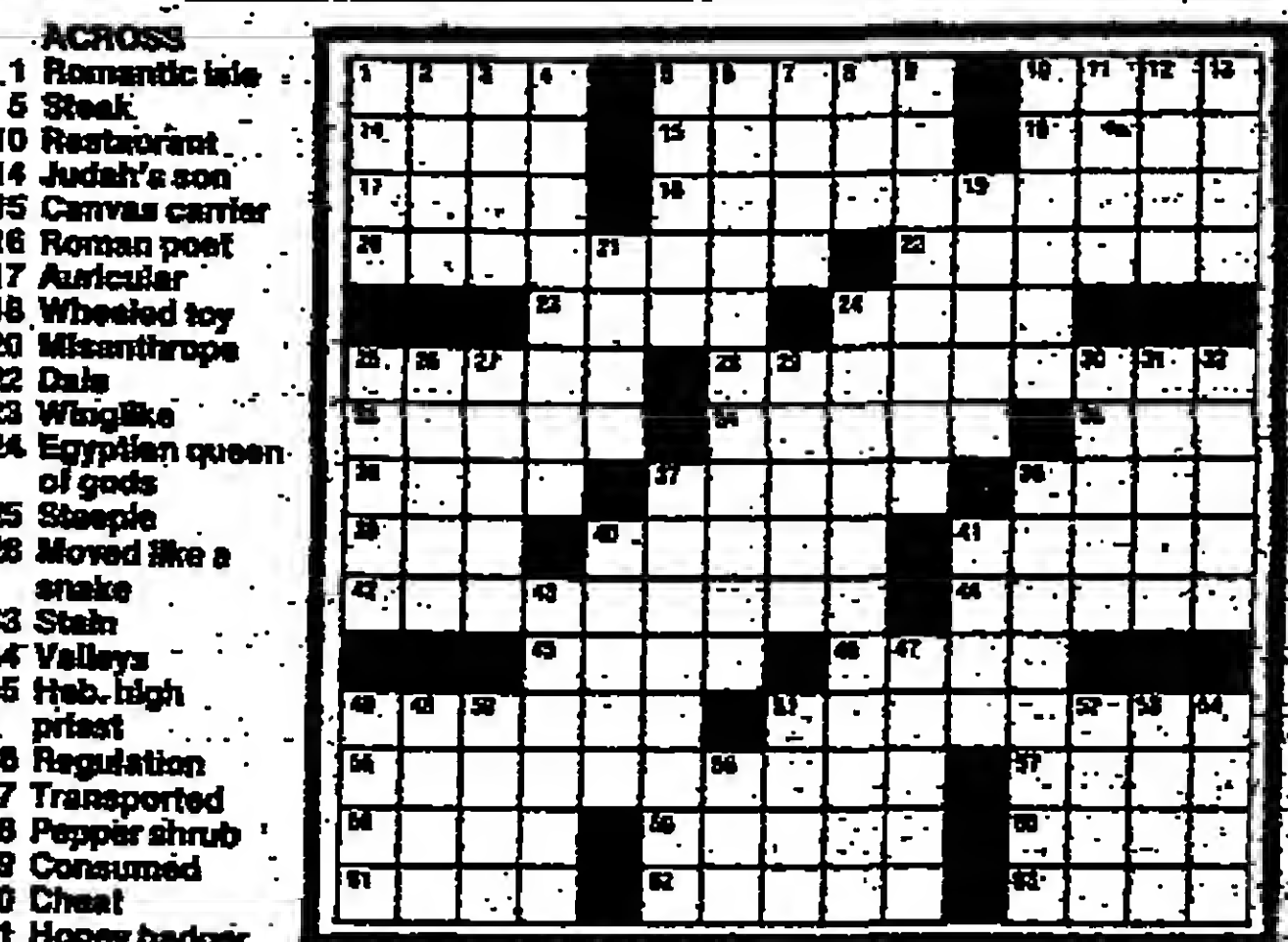
Tyrrell were initially suspended by FISA for alleged violation of fuel regulations during the Detroit Grand Prix on June 24. The team has denied contravening FISA rules.

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THE Daily Crossword by Albert L. Williams



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ACROSS	1 Romantic tale	10 Unskilled laborer	19 Grandparental	28 Footloose	37 Priestly caste
2 Streak	11 Discharge	20 Whirlpool	29 Clock faces	38 Gatzelike	38 Amalthea
3 Barabara	12 Canvas carrier	21 Resorts	39 Returned	39 Flat	39 Flat
4 Judah's son	13 Whirlpool	22 Away from the wind	40 Stretch the neck	40 Flat	40 Flat
5 Canvas carrier	14 Whirlpool	23 Christmas song	41 Entranced	41 Flat	41 Flat
6 Roman poet	15 Whirlpool	24 Famous victim for shot	42 Mountain ridge	42 Flat	42 Flat
7 Whirlpool	16 Whirlpool	25 Indian	43 Flat	43 Flat	43 Flat
8 Whirlpool	17 Whirlpool	26 Bay	44 Flat	44 Flat	44 Flat
9 Whirlpool	18 Whirlpool	27 Bay	45 Flat	45 Flat	45 Flat
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Sterling sinks to record low

LONDON (R) — Sterling fell to its lowest level ever Wednesday, battered by worries that oil prices will sink even further below their already weak levels.

The British currency slid to \$1.765 as members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) met in Geneva to try to find a way to share up the sagging oil market, amid forecasts of a worsening oil and possible price war.

Britain is the fifth largest oil producer, but its North Sea crude is trading on the free market at more than a dollar below official prices. Sterling's trade-weighted index, closely watched by British financial authorities as a measure of the pound's international value, fell to 73.4 per cent. This was its lowest figure since the index was started by the Bank of England in 1975.

"It is a one-way street against sterling," said one dealer. "There are certainly no reasons to buy the currency at the moment." At midday, it was trading at only \$1.768.

The pound's fall from its close here Tuesday of \$1.860 was fueled by the dollar's stubborn resilience to this week's cuts in U.S. prime lending rates, which are now below 11 per cent for the first time since August of last year.

Expectations that lower oil prices will result in lower inflation has also knocked the shine off gold, but its price recovered slightly Wednesday to \$309 an ounce from Tuesday's two-and-a-half-year low of \$305.

Gold bullion was fixed Wednesday morning at \$308.75, below Tuesday afternoon's fix of \$309 but above the \$208.25 price agreed at the morning fixing Tuesday.

The strength of the dollar, which usually moves in the opposite direction to gold, has also lured investors away from precious metals, dealers said.

They said the dollar's ability to shrug off the recent dive in U.S. interest rates highlighted the extent of traders' underlying confidence in the currency.

Mr. Paul Chappell, Chemical Bank's chief dealer in Frankfurt, said the dollar's resilience was remarkable and it was tempting to think a collapse might be imminent. But demand for dollars continued and some operators felt the stimulus to U.S. industry from lower rates could only be positive for the currency.

World economy to slow with downturn in U.S., bank says

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The world economy will slow down somewhat in 1985 but will continue to make significant progress, economists at the San Francisco-based Bank of America said Tuesday in their latest annual forecast.

However, they said that in the United States, "the economy definitely is weakening", although any downturn would be mild and a full-fledged recession was not on the horizon.

The bank projected that for the world as a whole Gross Domestic Product (GDP) — the amount of goods and services produced — would grow in real terms by 3.2 per cent in 1985, compared with 4.4 per cent this year.

In the United States, GDP would increase 2.4 per cent next year, sharply down from the boom year of 1984 when the nation's economy grew by nearly seven per cent, it added.

The bogey of budget deficits will continue to hamper the industrialised world, the forecasts added, contributing to high interest rates. These rates will discourage investment and result in relatively low growth rates and increased unemployment.

A bright note in the projections is that the global inflation rate is expected to fall to 12.6 per cent, compared with 15.4 per cent this year.

More U.S. banks cut prime rate

NEW YORK (R) — Bankers Trust Tuesday became the second big bank in two days to lower its prime lending rate to 10 1/4 per cent, touching off a rally on Wall Street.

Manufacturers Hanover announced Monday it was dropping its prime to 10 1/4 per cent from 11 1/4 per cent, marking the first time since August last year that a big American bank's lending rate has dropped below 11 per cent.

Most other major banks were holding the prime, which is the interest banks charge on loans to their best customers, at 11 1/4 per cent. Citicorp's Citibank was at 11 1/2 per cent.

OPEC opens conference amid price war worries

GENEVA (R) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil ministers started talks Wednesday on ways of narrowing price differences between their various crude oils, an issue which has split the organisation at a time of mounting fears of an oil price collapse.

On their way into the meeting, ministers were reluctant to discuss details of a proposed formula to end the row over price differentials agreed Tuesday by a ministerial committee under Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani.

But one minister, Mr. Mohammad Gharazi of Iran, said he favoured the committee's proposals for an increase in the price of the heavier lower quality grades but not for cuts in the prices of top quality light oils.

Observers from non-OPEC Brunei and Malaysia were attending the meeting for the first time.

Other non-member states present were Egypt and Mexico, which attended an extraordinary session of the oil exporter group here in October.

The ministers were also reluctant to discuss the threat of an oil price war if North Sea oil producers Britain and Norway go ahead with reported plans to abandon their official pricing policies in favour of the lower free market prices.

Delegates said the threat was the main concern of virtually all 13 ministers, and non-OPEC observers although the main conference discussion would centre on the issue of differentials.

The ministers would not say by how much the gap would be narrowed.

'No amount of U.S. aid could solve Israeli woes'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel presented the United States Wednesday with its largest aid request ever, asking for \$4 billion in 1986 and also for an extra \$850 million in 1985.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's request, submitted to U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis at a broadcast ceremony, drew an immediate sharp response from the veteran American diplomat.

If Israel did not take fundamental austerity measures, "then it is clear that no amount of aid could solve your difficulties," Mr. Mordechai said.

Mr. Lewis said Israel needed extra aid to overcome its economic crisis. "Once you help us get over the hurdle, we hope this ceremony won't repeat itself," he said.

American officials have criticised Israel for failing to carry out drastic budget cuts to help reduce inflation, now about 800 per cent a year.

Mr. Mordechai said Israel urgently needed \$850 million in emergency aid in 1985 above the \$2.6 billion economic and military grants the U.S. has already allocated.

Mr. Lewis said Washington was trying to trim its own budget and would scrutinise Israel's request carefully.

The ambassadors said: "We

rowed.

Delegates said a tighter gap could remove one of the major causes of tension within OPEC while keeping the group's market price at \$29 a barrel for Saudi Arabian light crude despite a glut which has drastically cut OPEC's share of the world market.

Prices of other grades would be realigned around the market, narrowing the gap between top and lower quality crudes.

This would help producers of better quality crudes to push sales to refineries who have used new technology to process inferior crudes more economically at current depressed prices.

Besides Sheikh Yamani, the oil ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Dr. Mana Said Al Oteiba, and of Libya, Mr. Fawzi Shakhoulki, sat on the committee appointed to review price policy to help OPEC stand united in the face of a possible price challenge.

Dr. Oteiba said Tuesday OPEC's other watchdog body, the market monitoring committee, would recommend leaving unchanged the lower production ceiling of 16 million barrels per day (b/d).

Seven weeks ago OPEC members agreed to slash output by 1.5 million b/d to try to maintain official prices after Norway and Britain were joined by maverick OPEC member Nigeria in a round of price cuts.

But this failed to arrest a slide in oversupplied world markets, prompting Sheikh Yamani and Dr. Oteiba to warn the North Sea producers they faced a price war if they went ahead with plans to slice prices further to reflect spot rates.

Congress critics say Reagan 1986 defence budget is unacceptable

WASHINGTON (R) — The 1986 defence budget President Reagan announced Tuesday is unacceptable and will be substantially rewritten by Congress, several key congressmen and senators predicted.

If Mr. Reagan and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger "are unwilling to make cuts in the defence budget, we will have to take it upon ourselves to go ahead and make those cuts," said representative Mr. Joseph Addabbo, chairman of the House defence appropriations subcommittee.

"This budget with its modest changes in defence will be dead on arrival when it gets to Congress and it will be substantially rewritten by Congress," said representative Mr. Tom Downey, a member of the House budget committee.

Mr. Reagan sided with Mr. Weinberger in agreeing to slow the growth rate of the U.S. military buildup by reducing his original defence spending targets by \$28.1 billion over three years.

White House economic advisers had recommended \$58 billion in cuts to ease a \$200 billion national deficit.

While some congressmen and senators were quick to label Mr. Reagan's defence budget a loser, there was a conspicuous lack of

any comment from congressional leaders.

Spokesmen for Democratic House leader Mr. Thomas O'Neill, Senate Republican leader Mr. Robert Dole, Senate Democratic leader Mr. Robert Byrd, Senator Barry Goldwater, chairman of the Senate armed services committee, and Senator Lawton Chiles, ranking democrat on the Senate budget committee, all said their bosses would make no immediate statement.

Senator Dan Quayle, an Indiana Republican who has stressed a need to reduce weapons cost, reflected the bipartisan problems Mr. Reagan's defence budget faces.

He described the proposal announced Tuesday as "an opening offer by the administration" and said "I'm certain the Congress will have a counteroffer down the road."

Several critics said Mr. Reagan's failure to cut deeper into defence spending jeopardises his ability to achieve a \$34 billion in domestic programme reductions

he endorsed and also makes costly strategic weapon systems more vulnerable to the congressional axe.

"We can eliminate the MX missile and Star Wars (space based defence system) without jeopardising our defences one iota," insisted Democratic Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas.

Representative Les Aspin said by refusing to accept deeper defence cuts Mr. Reagan has given Congress great latitude to cut defence and to salvage some of the domestic programmes Mr. Reagan targeted for reduction or elimination.

Mr. Aspin, an influential member of the House armed services and budget committees, said he believes Congress would more likely accept \$58 billion in cuts proposed by White House Budget Director David Stockman.

Even with such reductions, 1986 military spending would increase by three per cent over 1985. "The Stockman number is much closer to where the public is," Mr. Aspin said, adding: "I find very little support (in Congress) among conservative Democrats or Republicans" for the Reagan-Weinberger proposal.

Meanwhile, simplifying the U.S. tax system would help streamline the American economy and make it more efficient and competitive in international trade, a congressional study said Tuesday.

The report, which centres on the complex corporate tax structure, said reform is necessary and should be geared to establish a coherent industrial policy to help U.S. compete overseas.

The House of Representatives subcommittee on economic stabilisation, which released the report, plans to hold hearings early next year on the impact of taxes on overall industrial policy.

"Tax simplification would improve both the efficiency and competitiveness of our economy by eliminating many of these distortions and restoring neutrality to the tax code," the report said.

Committee Chairman Mr. John Latta told reporters the present tax code "in a large part is corporate welfare personified."

He told reporters that he liked the corporate section of a U.S. Treasury tax simplification plan now being reviewed by the White House but would like to know how it would work for individuals.

The congressional study said the present tax system had effectively established an uncoordinated series of industrial policies that did not help the overall economy.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices drifted below their initial highs by the close with the FTSE 100 index at 1530 GMT up 5.2 at 1221.4 having touched a record 1223.6 earlier in the session.

Government bonds declined as much as 7/16 point, due to the renewed weakness of sterling, whose trade weighted index touched a new low of 73.1 at 1400 GMT. The easier opening of U.S. bond markets also contributed to the easing, dealers said.

Equities opened firm in line with Tuesday's advance on Wall Street but closed mixed after small two-way business. Golds and North Americans were mixed.

Shares favoured by the U.S. were firm, while the renewed weakness for sterling prompted demand for issues with export potential, dealers said. ICI rose 6p to 746, BAT added 5p to 353 and Beecham gained 7p to 591.

In mixed oils, Shell extended Tuesday's advance by 10p to 656 while Ultramar dropped 9p to 211. Trading was nervous as the OPEC meeting got under way Wednesday, dealers said.

Distillers eased 4p to 308 ahead of results Thursday while B.T. returned to 101 1/2 after 102 1/2. Banks showed gains of up to 5p while insurances were mixed with Commercial Union down 2p at 182 and Sun Life 10p higher at 784.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.1770/85	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3126/67	Canadian dollars
	3.0890/0905	West German marks
	3.4860/40	Dutch guilders
	2.5490/5510	Swiss francs
	61.9762/00	Belgian francs
	9.4675/4725	French francs
	1904.01905.0	Italian lire
	247.15/30	Japanese yen
	8.8440/8540	Swedish crowns
	8.9650/9750	Norwegian crowns
	11.0680/0780	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	308.80/309.30	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Herri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DOLOF

SNOWO

LAPLOW

SHINIF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumble: AGING FOYER BAFFLE GLOBAL

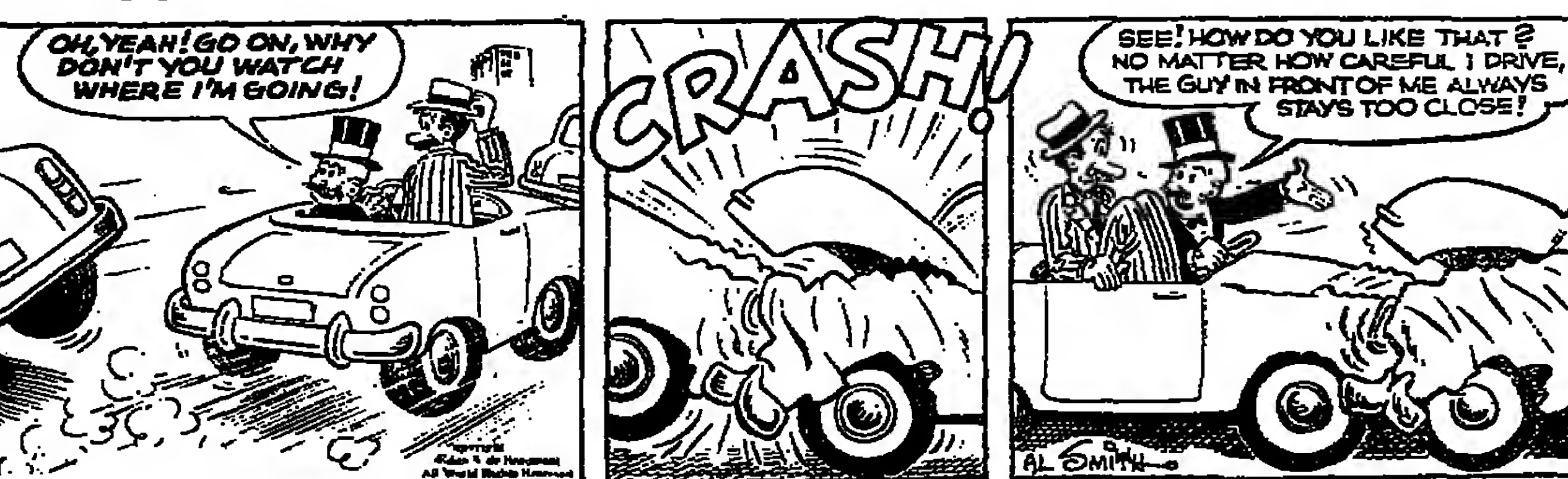
Answer: "Does it all come from an allergy?"

(Answers Monday)

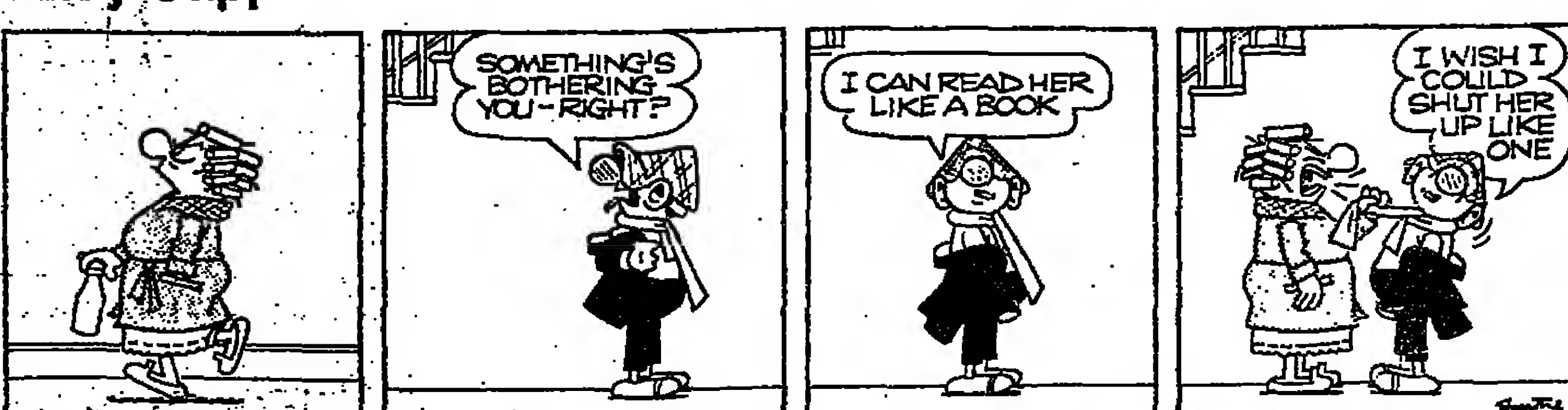
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Britain, China sign Kong Hong agreement

PEKING (AP) — Britain and China on Wednesday signed a historic agreement that will return Hong Kong to China in 1997, ending 156 years of British rule over the capitalistic free port.

In the presence of China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, government dignitaries from both countries and specially invited guests from Hong Kong, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang signed the agreement in the Great Hall of the People.

Both Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Zhao lauded the accord. For China, implementation of the agreement will launch it on a unique experiment in the annals of Chinese Communism. Under a formula known as "one country, two systems," it has promised to retain Hong Kong's capitalistic lifestyle under Communist Chinese sovereignty.

The Chinese, who hailed Mrs. Thatcher for her "foresight and sagacity" in reaching the agreement, accorded her a 19-gun salute at a red-carpet state welcome Wednesday morning and promised that Peking would implement the historic accord "in every respect."

From the welcoming ceremony, Mrs. Thatcher went straight to almost three hours of talks with Mr. Zhao before the signing ceremony in the afternoon.

She told him it was a great and historic occasion, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Mrs. Thatcher lunched with President Li Xiangnan and then had meetings with China's paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, and Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang before the 5:30 p.m. (09:30 GMT) signing ceremony.

In the early afternoon, she was

welcomed by Mr. Hu at Zhongnanhai, where Chinese leaders live and work, where they chatted for a few minutes for photographers.

Mrs. Thatcher, recalling China's September deadline for a pact, said: "Well I never thought we should be able to achieve it within the two years Chairman Deng Xiaoping set us because there was so much to be done in detail."

When she met Mr. Deng later, reporters heard him say: "The Hong Kong question has gone through a history of 150 years. The failure to solve this question has been a shadow over relations between our two countries. Now the shadow has been removed."

Under the "joint declaration" initiated in Peking on Sept. 26 Britain relinquishes sovereignty when its 99-year-lease on the new territories — the bulk of Hong Kong's land area — expires in 1997.

China promises to retain the colony's capitalist system and traditional freedoms for 50 years after the takeover.

Although the handover terms have been generally welcomed, many in Hong Kong question China's ability to deliver on its promises in view of the tumultuous 1966-76 "Cultural Revolution" and other political upheavals since Communist rule began in 1949.

But Mr. Zhao assured the British leader: "In the years to come, so and I am convinced the British side will also do so."

Government spokesman Ma

Yuzhen also quoted Mr. Zhao as saying that China's "one country, two systems" policy "is not an expedient measure."

Xinhua quoted Mr. Zhao as adding: "We always mean what we say. What we say to the world counts and we have always adhered to the agreements we have signed internationally."

Mr. Zhao termed the pact "a major event in modern world history," conducive to peace in Asia and the world and opening a new chapter in Sino-British relations.

He praised Mrs. Thatcher's "vision and statesmanship" and accepted an invitation to visit Britain next summer.

Xinhua quoted Mrs. Thatcher, here for 36 hours before flying to Hong Kong and Washington, as telling Zhao: "I thought it was of extreme importance to come even for a short visit because it is such a great occasion and a historic occasion."

The 59-year-old conservative party leader arrived Tuesday night in icy Peking.

Queen to visit China

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth has accepted an invitation to visit China although no date has been set for the trip, Buckingham Palace said Wednesday. A palace spokesman said that while the Queen had accepted in principle an invitation given by the Chinese last September, the visit could not take place before the second half of 1996 as her programme was full until then.

He declined to give further details of the trip, which will be the Queen's second to a Communist country. The first was to Yugoslavia in 1972.

EC approves more aid for Africa

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community has formally approved a further 500,000 tonnes of food aid to help famine victims in Ethiopia and other drought-stricken parts of Africa, Community officials said Wednesday.

They said the 10's foreign ministers agreed ways to raise the extra 75 million ECUs (\$30 million) pledged by their leaders at their Dublin summit this month.

The aid, on top of 300,000 tonnes already pledged by the Community and another 400,000 from member states, will take the bloc's total famine relief effort to 1.2 million tonnes in 1995.

Around 50 million ECUs (\$38 million) comes from funds which would normally be paid back to member states to compensate them for the administrative cost of collecting value added tax.

The remainder is made up by money unspent this year and by disaster provision in the agreement between the Community and its African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) partners, they said.

Over seven million people are currently affected by drought in Africa and a recent European Community report said the figure could soon reach 10 million unless a massive response is made by the international community.

Meanwhile, the United Nations, which is spearheading relief efforts for starving Ethiopians, is to spend \$73.5 million on new conference facilities for the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa in the Ethiopian capital.

The General Assembly overrode objections by the United States, Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg Tuesday night to approve the move by 122 votes, despite reported reservations by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

As the world body voted, delegates gathered in another U.N. chamber to pledge contributions to a relief fund for drought-stricken Africa, with Ethiopia the major beneficiary.

U.S. delegate Richard Nygard termed the move to spend so much money on a meeting place in Addis Ababa "a cruel rebuff to the poor, the hungry and the downtrodden who have invested their hopes and dreams in the promise of international cooperation."

Diplomatic sources said African members pressed the proposal on the ground that Addis Ababa's Africa Hall did not meet the Economic Commission's needs.

Mr. Nygard termed the new project a status symbol in a country where millions faced starvation. "What will people contributing to relief efforts in Ethiopia think of United Nations priorities?" he asked.

"How can member states take the United Nations seriously when a General Assembly session focusing on the economic crisis in Africa makes its largest commitment of financial resources for a conference centre?"

Between 45 and 50 countries Tuesday night expressed willingness to contribute relief aid to famine-stricken Ethiopia, a senior U.N. official said.

He was giving details of a closed-door meeting of donor countries convened by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and attended by Ethiopia's Deputy Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation, Berhanu Dereessa.

Since the meeting was not a pledging conference and most participants did not give specific details of their aid plans, no overall tally could be made.

But the official, James Baker, director of the U.N. unit on special assistance programmes, said there still appeared to be a significant gap between Ethiopia's emergency needs over the next 12 months and likely aid commitments.

He said the meeting was attended by representatives of every region, including the United States, the Soviet Union and China.

U.S. to launch spy satellite into orbit

WASHINGTON (R) — The space shuttle Discovery will put a new military spy satellite into orbit over the Soviet Union next month, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

Quoting unidentified informed sources, the Post said the satellite would collect electronic signals and retransmit them to a U.S. receiving station on earth.

The satellite, to be released from the shuttle cargo bay during Discovery's mission starting on Jan. 23, will be put into geosynchronous orbit 22,500 miles above the western part of the Soviet Union, the sources were quoted as saying.

It would remain there because its speed would equal that of the earth's rotation. Data gathered could include radio signals from Soviet missile tests that could be used to verify compliance with arms control agreements, the sources told the Post.

The \$300-million satellite would be the most important and largest of the so-called signals intelligence satellites, four or five of which already hover over the Soviet Union, the newspaper said.

The Pentagon said on Monday the payload was a secret. Officials urged the media not to speculate on the nature of the cargo, arguing that reporters might uncover information not available to Moscow.

Discovery, which is to be launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, will be making the first inter-military mission of the shuttle programme.

Air Force Brig.-Gen. Richard Abel said the media had "a special responsibility not to reveal anything that might damage national security."

He added: "We will be as open as we possibly can be within the confines of protecting the mission and its payload."

Gen. Abel said reporters would not be allowed to talk to the shuttle crew during the mission.

Poland praises Italy before Andreotti visit

WARSAW (R) — Poland, seeking to restore ties with Western European countries, Wednesday praised Italy's approach to internal Polish affairs and East-West relations on the eve of a visit by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Mr. Andreotti is due to meet Communist Party leader Wojciech Jaruzelski, Foreign Minister

Stefan Olszowski and Poland's Roman Catholic Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, during his four-day visit which starts Thursday.

The official News Agency PAP described Mr. Andreotti as an "outstanding European statesman" and said: "Italy belongs to those states which approach

Poland's affairs with European understanding and want the normalisation of good-neighbourly relations in all of Europe."

It said the government of Bettino Craxi was one of the first NATO members to advocate the lifting of sanctions imposed on Poland after the declaration of martial law in late 1981.

Gandhi predicts bigger majority in elections

AMETHI, India (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, exuding confidence on a final campaign visit to his home constituency, predicted Wednesday that his Congress (I) Party would win an increased majority in general elections starting on Monday.

But the opposition leader said his party would disintegrate after the poll and new political forces would then emerge in India.

Mr. Gandhi, who succeeded his mother Indira as prime minister after her assassination on Oct. 31, said his first campaign for election as India's leader had gone well.

He predicted that personally he would win an overwhelming vic-

tory over his sister-in-law Maneka. In Amethi constituency, 500 kilometres south east of New Delhi. In Amethi, posters bearing pictures of the prime minister and his late mother outnumbered by 10 to one those favouring Maneka, the widow of Rajiv's brother Sanjay.

One opinion poll said Maneka, whose husband died in a plane crash four years ago, would take only six per cent of the vote in Amethi.

There was a minor security scare Wednesday when she was thrown up by Gandhi's cavalcade briefly obscured his car.

Hundreds flee Indian gas leak

NEW DELHI (R) — A baby girl died and hundreds of people fled in panic through the night after a tanker carrying acid overturned and gave off a gas, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

It said the tanker carrying oilium acid overturned late Tuesday

Austria seals off Danube dam site from protesters

VIENNA (R) — Austrian police have sealed off a construction site on the River Danube where hundreds of people are camping out to try to stop a new dam being built. The Interior Ministry declared the illegally-occupied territory at Hainburg, between Vienna and the Czechoslovak border, a no-go area after midnight.

It urged protesters sleeping out in freezing conditions to abandon the swampy, forested area and allow work to continue on a new hydroelectric project which the government says is needed to reduce the country's dependence on oil and gas.

Thousands of demonstrators have arrived at the site in the past few days to obstruct tree-felling. They want work halted pending a referendum.

Trade unions planned a mass counter-rally there this morning but amid fears of violence between opposing groups cancelled the demonstration Tuesday night after emergency talks with the government.

The "Auwald" forest is a 50 square kilometres tract of land resembling a mini-Amaazonia that environmentalists say will be lost if the dam is built.

The forest has been formed by thousands of years of flooding by the sluggish Danube and is valued by scientists and nature-lovers for its rare birds, reptiles and orchids.

Scientists say the dam will deprive the area of the continuous flooding needed for the survival of its unique ecological system.

U.S. engineer accused of offering secrets to Soviets

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has said it has arrested a defence industry engineer in Los Angeles and charged him with offering Moscow secret data on the super secret "Stealth" bomber. But no information was acquired by the Soviet Union about the project, the FBI said.

The Stealth project, under development by Northrop Corporation, involves a highly classified programme to develop a bomber and other weapons virtually invisible to Soviet radar.

The FBI said the engineer, Thomas Patrick Cavanagh, 40, had been charged with removing classified technical manuals, blueprints, drawings and a list of sub-contractors, and offering the material to the Soviet Union for \$25,000.

Disclosure of the documents to the Soviet Union would have caused irreparable damage to U.S. national security, FBI Director William Webster said.

FBI officials said billions of dollars had been spent developing and producing the Stealth technology.

A statement announcing the arrest charged Mr. Cavanagh with attempting to provide secret data on "an advanced military project which utilises low observable technology."

FBI officials later confirmed that it involved the Stealth project.

If convicted on the espionage charges, Mr. Cavanagh could be sentenced to life imprisonment.

"We have more people charged with espionage right now than ever before in our history," Mr. Webster said.

"These investigations should serve to heighten citizens' awareness of the presence of foreign intelligence efforts to obtain sensitive information."

The FBI said Mr. Cavanagh, who worked at Northrop's Advanced Systems Division, attempted to contact and meet Soviet officials.

There was no immediate explanation however on how the FBI was able to prevent any documents changing hands.

Late last month, the FBI arrested a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employee in New York on charges of providing Czechoslovakia with U.S. national secrets.

In October, the FBI arrested one of its veteran agents, Richard Miller, in Los Angeles and accused him of being a spy for the Soviet Union. It was the first time anyone had been charged with being a "mole" in the law enforcement agency's 76-year history.

COLUMNS 7&8

Libya says severed hand sewn back

BEIRUT (R) — Libya Wednesday reported its first successful surgical operation to sew a man's hand back on after it was severed in a traffic accident. The official News Agency JANA, monitored in Beirut, said the seven-hour operation took place Tuesday night at the Central Hospital in Tripoli. The agency, quoting hospital sources, said the unidentified patient was in satisfactory condition after the "completely successful" operation.

Reagan to be sworn in twice

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Reagan will begin his second term in office twice, once privately and once publicly. Mr. Reagan's second inauguration as president will take place on Jan. 20 — that being the date set by the 20th amendment to the constitution. He will be sworn in privately on that date, which in 1985 falls on a Sunday. On the following day, he will again take the 35-word oath of office, this time in a great public ceremony on the west steps of the U.S. Capitol. Reagan's selection of Monday, Jan. 21, for the public inauguration of his second term follows a precedent set by James Monroe in 1821. Monroe's choice was based on advice from the chief justice of the supreme court, John Marshall, to avoid holding such a public ceremony with its attendant political festivities on the sabbath — a day reserved for worship and rest by the Christian majority of the country's populace.

Ted Hughes appointed poet laureate

LONDON (R) — Ted Hughes, a writer of earthy and often violent poetry and prose with a central theme of animals and the countryside, was Wednesday named poet laureate to succeed the late Sir John Betjeman. The appointment, announced by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's office, came as a surprise to the literary world. Although Hughes, 54, is a prolific writer and one of Britain's best-known and most widely-read poets, the honorary post had been tipped to go to university librarian Philip Larkin. The holder of the title, created in 1599, is encouraged to write commemorative poems to coincide with state occasions although this is not compulsory. The post is a Crown appointment, with Queen Elizabeth conferring the title on the candidate recommended by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Actor Peter Lawford hospitalised

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Peter Lawford was hospitalised in serious condition with an "uncertain" prognosis Tuesday, and the suave British-born actor's family began to gather at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, a hospital spokesman said. At the request of his wife, Patricia, no further information was being released about the actor, except that he had been hospitalised since Sunday, Cedars spokesman Ron Wise said. "Peter Lawford is in serious condition," Mr. Wise said in a brief statement. "The prognosis is uncertain at this time. His wife, Patricia, has been with him since he came into the hospital on the 16th. It's understood that several of his children are joining him. Any change in his medical condition will be announced by his wife, Patricia." Mr. Wise said Lawford had been in the hospital several weeks before, but declined to indicate what was ailing the 61-year-old actor. Lawford, whose many film roles include the figure of Dorian Gray and Oscar's 11, underwent surgery for a pancreatic cyst in November 1972. He has appeared rarely in television and films in the past 10 years.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠K6 ♡A3 ♢10654 ♣97542 Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A. — With 7 HCP and a five-card suit, your hand is borderline for a raise to two no trump. Here, however, your suits lack quality. As a result, you have no source of tricks. Pass.

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠86 ♡93 ♢A1065 ♣K9754 Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A. — This is virtually the same hand as in the previous problem, except that now your high cards are in your long suits. With two probable sources of tricks, your hand just merits a raise to two no trump.

Q.3 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q106 ♡J9863 ♢3 ♣A87 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 2NT Dble ?

What action do you take? A. — North's bid of two no trump is unusual — in this case, it is a red-suit takeout. Jump to four hearts. First, your hands should fit well and there is a chance you can make that contract. Secondly, you might catapult your opponents into game in one of their suits, and you know what you will do then.

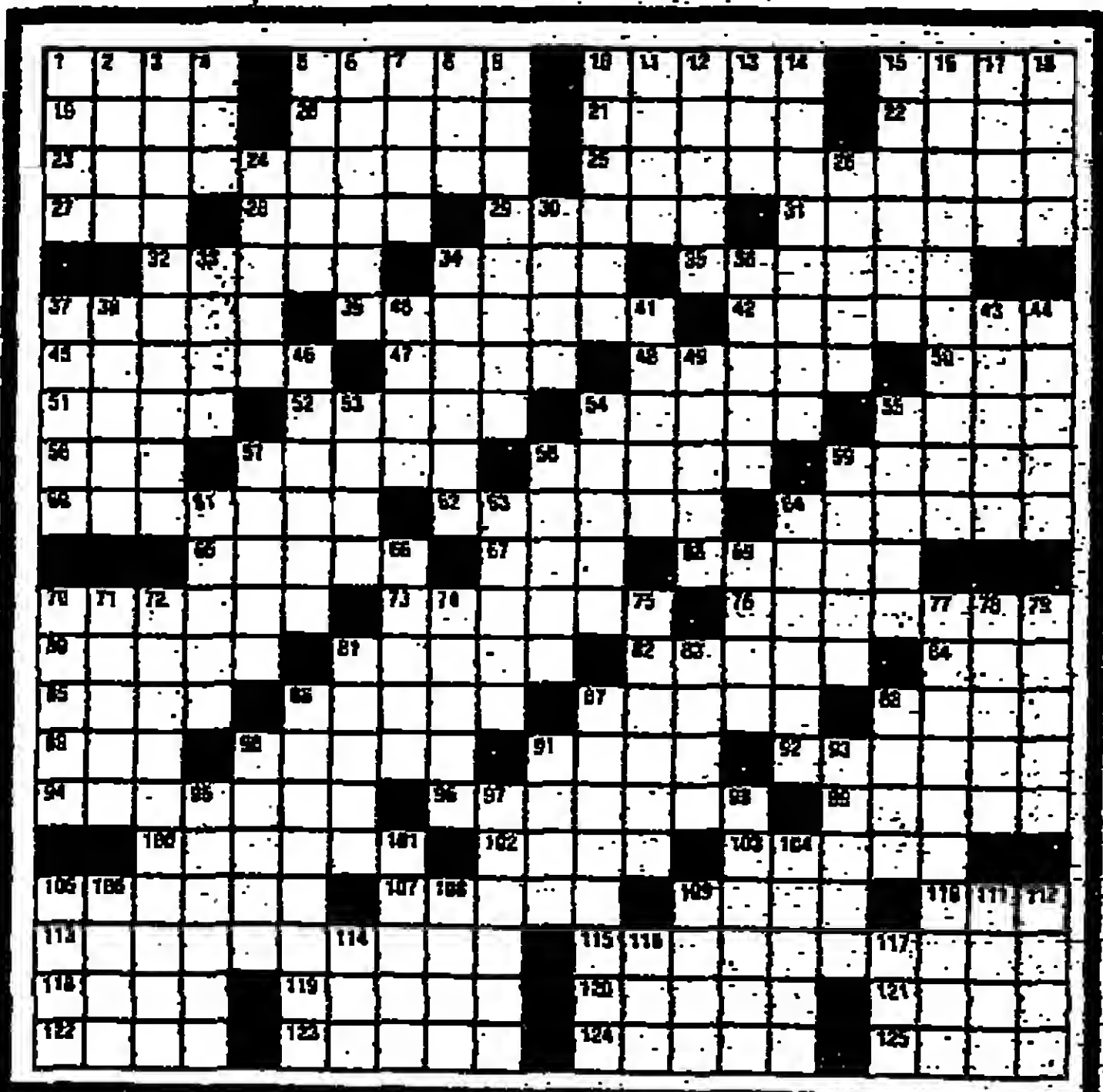
Q.4 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A76 ♡A82 ♢K83 ♣QJ95 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 2NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now? A. — While we are not in the habit of pulling partner's low-level penalty doubles, if ever there was a hand with which you should do just that, this is it. You have little in defense to help partner, but your offensive potential is enormous. We suggest you gamble out three no trump — you won't get hurt, and you need very little from partner to make game.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Engstrom



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. It is claimed that the breeding effects of travel are nights best observed from the rear.
2. Ice cream cones seem designed for falling from children's hands.
3. Rough lad bathing in men's tub had messy table twerker.
4. Poor Simple Simon going to fair met farmer selling fumes.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. OLOOF GLOOZX PM GLIB OLOOXO PMT EFX NLMP NXLM HXIOPMO SXEO OHLBZMS

—By Conde Ravensfield

2. QET UP ED DAILNK FAD QUP DEUD DRINK HAM FB EAZKIAZ HFBENN LFD ST HAM FB DNU?

—By Marie Marlene

3. STABCH NIBL LTEWM RTT DENI SUREU UWR SUREAH DUMB IOD LUREA KROCC

—By Ed Engstrom

4. RFOSE BEOKH GYX NPKXSH PAN GONE CYCIX CYNE GYNSP CL EBBREYETRN KAPES

—By E. P. Gwynne



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